

Date Sent	ID	Comments
11/12/07	315113601	<p>Will IDEM provide a written response to the public comments it has received on the US Steel NPDES permit before or during the EPA public hearing on Dec. 11? It would be helpful for the public to review IDEM's responses to these comments before the EPA public hearing. Also, has IDEM agreed to make any changes to the draft permit in response to EPA objections and the public comments it has already received? Is so, it would be helpful for the public to know what changes IDEM proposes to make to the permit before the EPA public hearing.</p>
11/16/07	319171029	<p>Dear EPA Officials,</p> <p>As the agency in charge of protecting our environment, I implore you to hold the US Steel responsible for operating its company according to laws and to common sense. When dealing with water, we have no time for excuses, lies or deceit. Please do not allow them to use outdated wastewater standards that harm the water quality, human health and aquatic life in and around Lake Michigan. There are already so many problems with our precious fresh water source, we are constantly cleaning up past mistakes. US Steel needs to know that their permit will not allow them any passes for pollutants such as mercury. They should be accountable for making substantial reductions in free cyanide, oil, grease, and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River, and they must reduce storm water runoff to Lake Michigan that we know contains unknown quantities of pollutants.</p> <p>If your agency allows this company to do any of the above activities, then who can US citizens trust to protect the environment on a major scale? Please enforce the laws without hesitation.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>
11/17/07	320125145	<p>I am very concerned about USS and their pollution practices into Lake Michigan. We depend on this water for survival and recreation. Please be sure that any permit issued to USS should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eliminate the 5 year pass for many pollutants, including mercury 2. Include substantial reductions in free cyanide, oil, grease, and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River 3. Reduce storm water runoff to Lake Michigan containing unknown quantities of pollution.

11/17/07	320135352	Please do not allow anyone, including US Steel to compromise the water quality of Lake Michigan. Americans are counting on the EPA to do their important job of protecting our fresh water supply. Our lives depend upon it. Fresh water is more important than oil or steel could ever be.
11/19/07	322082705	<p>We are writing to express our concern about pollutants flowing into the Great Lakes. We hope that you will not allow the use of outdated wastewater standards; i.e. eliminate the 5 year plan. We also urge the reduction of free cyanide, oil, grease and thermal pollutants and encourage reduction of pollutants from storm runoff.</p> <p>As residents who live on the shore of Lake Michigan during the summer months, we have witnessed severely increasing levels of pollution. Please help to protect the Great Lakes!</p>
11/19/07	322231641	We object to the issuing the discharge permit for US Steel as this is a step backwards in the protection of clean water.
11/28/07	331103145	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>I am an avid Lake Michigan sailor and surfer. I often surf, and occasionally sail, on the South end of the lake near the US Steel plant. While not versed in EPA regulations or acceptable effluent levels, my personal experience tells me that water quality near the US Steel plant is substantially below reasonable standards. When entering the water, there is a noticeable metallic odor. When coming out of the water, there is a noticeable oily texture on your skin, wetsuit, or shorts. You can even smell gasoline and diesel fuel on your skin after drying off. A session in the water is followed by a day or two of a stuffed up nose and a low-grade headache. I know other surfers and boaters have had similar experiences. It is clear that whatever the current levels of contaminants are in the lake, it is too much. Proposing to discharge more is ludicrous. The water and beaches along the Illinois and Indiana shoreline are some of the states' greatest assets. US Steel has used these assets as a central part of its business, allowing the company to prosper. For US Steel to continually push to dump more contaminants in the lake is appalling. It ignores the true harm being done to the lake and the people who use and enjoy it everyday, and it should not be allowed.</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>

11/28/07	331140919	<p>Dear David:</p> <p>Surfers, swimmers (esp. triathletes) and kayakers are regularly navigating the coastline of Lake Michigan all year long. Open Water swimming events in the lake are at an all time high, with 670 swimmers competing in Chicago's 5k swim this September. I understand that dumping is going to happen from time to time, but many of us are in the water nearly every day all summer, and we can see, smell and taste the crap that gets dumped. If there is anything the EPA can do to stop the dumping we would certainly appreciate it.</p> <p>Thank you and best regards.</p> <p>Perry Nagle Corporate Counsel Veolia Environmental Services</p>
11/28/07	331184914	<p>I am opposed to allowing US Steel to continue to use outdated water quality standards for their discharge into Lake Michigan, the Grand Calumet River and Stockton Pond.</p> <p>I urge you to tighten the Gary Works plant's discharge limits as a means of eliminating pollution to Lake Michigan over time, in keeping with the federal Clean Water Act.</p> <p>The Gary area is made up primarily of underprivileged minorities, who have been environmentally discriminated against for many years and it is time for this trend to stop.</p>
11/28/07	331222531	<p>Please say NO to the draft permit</p> <p>I object to the draft permit issued by Indiana's Department of Environmental Management.</p> <p>If finalized, the permit would allow the Gary Works facility -- the largest fully integrated steel mill in the country -- to continue to use outdated water quality standards for their discharge into Lake Michigan, the Grand Calumet River and Stockton Pond.</p> <p>The Alliance and other groups calling for the hearing voiced concern that, among other things, the permit grants U.S. Steel five more years to comply with federal water quality standards. This is not acceptable.</p>

11/29/07	332112442	Please do not let this dumping occur. Our lake ecosystem is already stressed. Increased use by swimmers makes this a bad idea.
11/29/07	332122848	<p>David,</p> <p>I'm a triathlete living in Milwaukee and I regularly swim in Lake Michigan during the summer. This summer the water was as beautiful as ever most days and I hope that never changes.</p> <p>It's already hard to convince people that swimming in the lake is safe and futher dumping (although I know it's unavoidable at times of high rain) will not help things. If we could maybe we could more tourism around water activities on Lake Michigan.</p> <p>If there is anything the EPA can do to stop the dumping we would certainly appreciate it.</p> <p>Thank you and best regards. Jennifer Koch</p>
11/29/07	332155722	<p>This a critical issue that effects everyone within the region. Tougher restrictions need to be place on the U.S Steel Gary Works. Eventually time and continual dumping straight into the lake is going to get to an point where the damage is irreversible if not so already.</p> <p>I would like for my children to be able to swim in the lake without fear of contracting on illness or disability. Lake Michigan is not only a valuable resource but a beauty of nature. So preservation should be the highest priority.</p> <p>Mahalo</p>

11/29/07	332160005	<p>Please reduce or eliminate dumping in Lake Michigan.</p> <p>My family and I swim, surf, waterski, jet ski, and drink Lake Michigan water year round.</p> <p>I surf regularly immediately adjacent to US Steel facilities in the Gary area from Whiting, IN to East Chicago, IN.</p> <p>Please add my name to any official petitions to reduce or eliminate discharge of industrial pollutants into Lake Michigan.</p> <p>Thank you for providing this forum.</p>
11/29/07	332162017	<p>Attention David Soong and Peter Swenson, I am writing to express my concern over the draft discharge permit for US steal in Gary Indiana. As you know, lake Michigan is the primary water source for drinking water and agriculture for a large number of people. It is also a major source of fishing and recreation. Pollutants such as Mercury are already a large problem and will continue to get worse if we allow large companies to continue to choose not to comply with the Clean Water Act. We need to hold U.S. Steal accountable.</p>
11/30/07	333102031	<p>I strongly feel we should be doing as much as we can to restore the water quality of the lake to levels that people are no longer afraid to eat the fish caught from it. Many are not only afraid to eat from the lake but are also afraid to even swim in it. I am often at the beaches of Lake Michigan with my family and three young children. Please protect us do not allow further discharge from U.S. Steel Corp. Gary Works.</p> <p>Sincerely, (name omitted)</p>
11/30/07	333111018	<p>Given all the degradation this planet has endured from our species, it would seem that the time has come to curtail the amount of pollution we produce rather than increase it.</p> <p>Please use your authority to prevent US Steel from adding more insult to Lake Michigan.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

11/30/07	333123051	I oppose IDEM draft discharge permit allowing US Steel Corp to pollute Lake Michigan and the rest of the Great Lakes (name omitted)
11/30/07	333160347	Water is necessary for life. We must take into account future generations in our decisions. The profits made through polluting our Great Lakes are small compared to the burden costs we will be leaving for our children in the future. Have we not seen enough of the past to realize today the problems are not ours in the future? Please consider our children's children when making your decision.
12/2/07	335152416	U.S. Steel has a responsibility to invest in current technology to limit their toxic discharges into the Great Lakes. Cumulative discharges must be taken into consideration as it effects the entire basin. It is difficult to secure federal money to clean-up the Great Lakes while companies continue to use this natural resource as a dumping ground.
12/3/07	336123620	I am asking that any permit given to U. S. Steel should require: the elimination of the 5 year pass for pollutants, especially mercury. reduction of cyanide, oil, grease, and thermal pollution into the Grand Calumet River. reduction of storm run off to Lake Michigan.
12/3/07	336123701	I am asking that any permit given to U. S. Steel should require: the elimination of the 5 year pass for pollutants, especially mercury. reduction of cyanide, oil, grease, and thermal pollution into the Grand Calumet River. reduction of storm run off to Lake Michigan.
12/3/07	336123719	I am asking that any permit given to U. S. Steel should require: the elimination of the 5 year pass for pollutants, especially mercury. reduction of cyanide, oil, grease, and thermal pollution into the Grand Calumet River. reduction of storm run off to Lake Michigan.
12/3/07	336123742	I am asking that any permit given to U. S. Steel should require: the elimination of the 5 year pass for pollutants, especially mercury. reduction of cyanide, oil, grease, and thermal pollution into the Grand Calumet River. reduction of storm run off to Lake Michigan.

12/4/07	337101155	<p>Please stand strong and do not allow US Steel Gary Works to use outdated wastewater standards to the detriment of water quality, human health and aquatic life. Any permit issued to USS should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eliminate the 5-year pass for several pollutants, including mercury - Include substantial reductions in free cyanide, oil, grease, and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River - Reduce storm water runoff to Lake Michigan containing unknown quantities of pollutants
12/5/07	338121642	<p>Please do not allow U.S.Steel to use outdated wastewater standards to the detriment of water quality, human health and aquatic life. Any permit issued to USS should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Eliminate the 5-year pass for several pollutants, including mercury * Include substantial reductions in free cyanide, oil, grease, and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River * Reduce storm water runoff to Lake Michigan containing unknown quantities of pollutants
12/5/07	338185414	<p>Lake Michigan supplies water, recreation, and income to thousands of citizens not only in Indiana but also in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Please ensure that the integrity of this great body of water and its ecosystem is protected; the EPA's duty in this matter is to maintain its defense of our national resources, of which Lake Michigan is of great importance.</p> <p>Thank you, (name omitted)</p>

12/5/07	338185738	<p>As someone who lives less than 2 miles from Lake Michigan, I am extremely concerned about US Steel and what it is planning to do in NW Indiana. We have been on a long hard road to improve conditions and clean up the lake. Now there is a possibility US Steel a pass to discharge higher amounts of pollutants for 5 years, and allow huge amounts of pollution bearing rain water to flow untreated into the lake. This is totally unacceptable. The flow of pollutants must be reduced, not increased. All clean up activities must continue and get better. Please do not allow US Steel to undo the work that has so painstakingly been done so far. My children and those of millions of others drink, swim and live along Lake Michigan - their health cannot be jeopardized.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>
12/5/07	338190124	<p>Mr. Soong,</p> <p>I live in Illinois, but I also own a residence and pay taxes in LaPorte County, Indiana within 100 yards of Lake Michigan. My family's drinking water, property values and quality of life are strongly tied to the health of Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes system. It is totally irresponsible given our current environmental knowledge to knowingly increase any pollutants in the lake. We have been trying to repair this system for nearly 40 years and the progress that we have made will not continue if we trade short term economic advantage for preserving and improving a natural resource that is necessary for the prosperity of future generations. There must be a no tolerance policy against any new toxic release into the lake, regardless of size.</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>
12/5/07	338192818	<p>Please do not permit U.S. Steel to pollute Lake Michigan. The EPA should be tightening pollution regulations, not loosening them. What kind of legacy do you want to leave for your grandchildren?</p>

12/5/07	338193249	<p>Dear Mr. Song:</p> <p>I am writing to you concerning U.S. Steel's plans to further pollute Lake Michigan.</p> <p>In your Federal role, I would very much appreciate your utmost efforts to reduce all sources of pollution entering the Great Lakes. They form a significant percentage of the available fresh water in the world, and cannot be taken lightly.</p> <p>U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes. This seems far too open-ended.</p> <p>U.S. Steel's production activities should not be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline.</p> <p>The final water pollution discharge permit -if you choose to issue one -- must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River.</p> <p>The final permit should also ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, into Lake Michigan</p> <p>Thank you for your attention, and for your service.</p> <p>With best regards,</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>
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12/5/07	338194846	<p>Please, we have a home in the middle of Lake Michigan(Beaver Island) that we have enjoyed for 5 generations. 7,500 migratory birds have been found dead in our area probably due to avian botulism, phragmites is invading and degrading the coastal health of our fisheries and Great Lakes, our water levels are at a record low,algae blooms due to invasive species are altering our ecosystems in ways not known to science. I have needed to put in a new well after 50 years due to unusual lake levels. And we still continue to use Lake Michigan as a sewer dump not taking into account the very people who live along the shores. When do we say enough is enough and stop killing the very thing that supports the economy and life of a region? Lake Michigan needs to be protected for more than just this generation's jobs or profits!</p>
12/5/07	338201145	<p>For the following obvious reasons, please consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ÿ U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes. ÿ U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline. ÿ The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River. ÿ The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan. <p>Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.</p> <p>(name and contact information omitted)</p>

12/5/07	338202250	<p>PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW U.S. STEEL TO DISCHARGE ANY TOXIC SUBSTANCES: MERCURY/ CHROMIUM/ and many other deadly chemicals into the river/ and waterways, particularly as they pertain to Lake Michigan!!</p> <p>We live in Whitehall, Michigan. This area is slowly remediating/ recovering from effects of Chemical businesses (Dupont/ Hooker/Oxy-Chemical/ and the Whitehall Leather Company) that polluted White Lake (and ultimately Lake Michigan) years ago. The long-term effects are: many people have suffered (or died) from cancer, Lupus Erythematosus, etc.</p>
12/5/07	338202833	<p>Re: Comments on the NPDES Permit No. 0000281, United States Steel Gray Works Facility</p> <p>Dear Mr. Rigney:</p> <p>With 95 percent of the America's fresh surface water, the Great Lakes are a natioanl and international treasure, provide drinking water, jobs and recreation to tens of millions of people. This month, the Brookings Institution found that their restoration should no longer be viewed as an expense, but an investment: every dollar spent on bringing the Grea Lakes back to health, the region is likely to see another dollar returein on ies investment. With the enclosed comments, we urge IDEM to ensure the U.S. Steel permit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates the 5-year pass proposed for serveral pollutants, including mercury. Requires substantial reductions in free cyanide, oil, grease, and thermal pollution to the grand Calument River. Reduces stormwater runoff to Lake Michigan containing unknown quantities of pollution.
12/5/07	338215606	<p>Fellow Citizen, It seems like a poor idea to dump mercury and other hazardous pollutants into the largest freshwater system on the planet. Poisoning the most valuable source of fresh drinking water on the planet. Hmmm. Let me think about that. What can I say. Its a really bad idea, If its that important to use water then fill up the huge gravel pit in south holland and pump the foul water in and out of there. It will make jobs and at the end of the day I dont think anyone really cares if the big hole on either side of the tollway gets filled with crud.</p>

12/5/07	338220155	<p>I would like to make the following comments as a concerned citizen of the Great Lakes basin and an advocate for the continued health of the Great Lakes.</p> <p>First and foremost, U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes.</p> <p>Second, U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline.</p> <p>Third, the final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River. And lastly, the final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan. Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that the most sustainable decision will be made.</p>
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12/5/07

338223212

December 5, 2007

Mr. David Soong
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Re: U.S. Steel Corp. Gary Works, One N. Broadway, Gary, IN,
to discharge into Lake Michigan, Grand Calumet River and
Stockton Pond.

Dear Mr. Soong,

This letter contains the comments of Habitat Education Center (HEC) on the proposed NPDES permit for U.S. Steel Corporation's Gary Works at One N. Broadway, Gary, IN. HEC (www.hecenter.org) is dedicated to protection, restoration and sustainable management of wildlife and wildlife habitats in the Upper Midwest. HEC staff and supporters use and enjoy the waters and associated terrestrial ecosystems directly and indirectly affected by effluent discharges from the U.S. Steel Gary Works (Gary Works) at One N. Broadway, Gary, IN. HEC members and supporters have a long-term interest in the ecological restoration of the Lake Michigan ecosystem, including the areas in and around the Gary Works.

Specific Comments

First and foremost, it is essential that all parties acknowledge the fact that the region in and around the Gary Works and southern Lake Michigan in general are already severely stressed by a variety of human activities ranging from direct discharges of toxic substances to waterways, air and soils to residential development within the watershed of the lakes. As a result, the Grand Calumet River and several other surface water resources in NE Indiana are among the most contaminated in the nation yet high quality natural areas do persist in the region. Increasing the amount of pollution that is discharged into the Great Lakes, at one of the Areas of Concern no less, is not only short-sighted public policy it is contrary to the original purpose of the NPDES permit system. After all, NPDES does stand for National Pollution Discharge Elimination System.

It is essential that all NPDES permits be written with the explicit understanding that these permits are intended to eliminate discharges, not sanction them forever. Any weakening of existing standards is unacceptable and modifications of permits must not be allowed to result in increased levels of pollutant discharges to the environment. Permit criteria and narrative standards should be developed with Areas of Concern Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for the Lake Michigan basin in mind (for cumulative effects evaluation). All discharges into the receiving waters (including estimates of non-point contributions) must be

12/5/07	338225253	<p>we drink from this lake i sail, surf and swim on this lake. how can you even think of letting a company dump toxic chemicals in it!!!??!?!?</p> <p>this makes me sick</p>
12/5/07	338232749	<p>Especially in light of decreasing water levels in the Great Lakes, this is a time when pollution discharge should be curtailed altogether. Corporations around the world have been making good use of water recycling technologies -- they have found that it actually reduces their costs. Please prevent US Steel (as well as other manufacturers and municipalities in the Great Lakes basin) from allowing ANY pollution to be discharged into the Great Lakes system. Thank you for considering this.</p>
12/5/07	339003453	<p>The Counties, municipalities and citizens along our precious Lake Michigan have worked hard to ensure the safety and health of this valuable resource. I urge you not to grant a five-year pass to U.S. Steel to jeopardize the safety of this resource so many depend on for water and food.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ÿ U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes. ÿ U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline. ÿ The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River. ÿ The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan. <p>We need to ensure the enforcement of existing regulations to assure the health of our Great Lakes on which so many of our citizens depend.</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>

12/6/07	339085422	<p>Dear Mr. Soong,</p> <p>It is unconscienable at this point in time, to run a business of any kind, without sensitivity and an acute awareness of the environmental impacts. The world now, and ever, has been everyone's home to care for. Boards with governance and power need to keep that thought forever present and visible in their decisions. These issues must FIRST consider impacts on the environment and ultimate health of living organisms, which in the end, translate into the greatest cost to all.</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>
12/6/07	339085535	<p>Please note I am a resident of Michigan and use the Great Lakes as my main source of recreational enjoyment. We have started to clean up the lakes and please do not allow U.S. Steel to continue, expand or pollute the very resource that makes the surrounding states so desireable to live in. Fresh clean water is so important to our national well being. I appreciate action to not allow U.S. steel to proceed polluting.</p>
12/6/07	339091211	<p>U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes.</p> <p>U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline.</p> <p>The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River.</p> <p>The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan.</p>

12/6/07	339094640	<p>Mr. Soong,</p> <p>I am sending you this brief message today to strongly encourage you to reject the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's draft discharge permit for U.S. Steel Corp. I am not only asking you this as a biologist and someone who has a vested interest in protection of the environment, but I am also asking you as a citizen to protect this vital resource that is the life blood of this entire region. Many of the Great Lakes states have recognized the importance of this resource and have entered a collaborative effort to protect it for future generations. The Tragedy of the Commons tells us that unrestricted access to a finite public resource dooms it to overexploitation and degradation. It is up to you to restrict the access to those that wish to degrade this resource and it is up to all of us to work together to conserve and protect it from overexploitation. So please, take that necessary first step and reject U.S. Steel's draft discharge permit. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Sincerely, (name omitted)</p>
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12/6/07	339101811	<p>Dear Mr. Soong,</p> <p>I have lived near Lake Michigan for most of my life. I grew up in Muskegon, Michigan, lived for seven years in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago, and for the last 14 years have lived in Holland, Michigan. Lake Michigan is an irreplaceable resource-- more than that, a thing of beauty and awe. It is also, as you must know, under assault, from invasive species to toxic pollution. It must be protected, and the EPA has a crucial role to play.</p> <p>To be precise, with respect to the U.S. Steel Gary Works plant: U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes.</p> <p>U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress toward environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline.</p> <p>The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River, and must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>(name and contact information omitted)</p>
12/6/07	339105920	<p>I object to the granting of the US Steel the right to discharge ANY pollution into Lake Michigan, much less an increased amount under suspicious circumstances. The USA has to get this issue in hand before it's too late.</p>
12/6/07	339114353	<p>I support the EPA's objections to the permit for U.S. Steel and hope that by working with the Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management and the company, pollution from the steel plant can be minimized--especially discharges to Lake Michigan.</p>

12/6/07	339115419	<p>Stop all industries from poisoning our air land and water. Use the most stringent standards available to stop all pollution going into our drinking water. Northwest Indiana has high cancer, asthma and mental disorder statistics because of the lax rules in effect for so long here. There are carcinogenic toxins being released by US Steel that aren't even being regulated under this proposed permit. This is inexcusable. We are watching and will not accept anything but elimination of all pollutants to our waters!</p>
12/6/07	339115802	<p>Please be viligant in protecting our air and water! Big money still talks way too loud! It's time to restore justice to the people and not allow industry to shirk it's duty just because of cost. I'd say the cost of cancer, asthma, emphysema, parkinson's, alzheimers, etc. is cost enough!! STOP POLLUTING WHEN THERE'S TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO CURTAIL OR END POLLUTION! WHERE THERE'S NO TECHNOLOGY, THE "COST" SHOULD BE SPENT ON CREATING AND DEVELOPING SAME! INSTEAD OF THE TAX CREDITS THAT ENABLE THEM TO MAKE BILLIONS, RESTRICT THE CREDIT USE ONLY FOR POLLUTION CONTROLS AND DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY. THANK YOU. (name omitted)</p>
12/6/07	339132944	<p>Stop the dumping. Save the Great Lakes.</p>
12/6/07	339133323	<p>U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes.</p> <p>U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline.</p> <p>The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River.</p> <p>The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan.</p>

12/6/07	339142830	<p>I have enjoyed Lake Michigan my whole life.</p> <p>It is critical we do all we can to protect the quality of Lake Michigan.</p> <p>I am VERY concerned about U.S. Steel in Gary, Indiana, and their recent request for discharge rights.</p> <p>U.S. Steel SHOULD NOT be given a 5-year pass on discharge of pollutants.</p> <p>U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline.</p> <p>The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River.</p> <p>The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention, (name and contact information omitted)</p>
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12/6/07	339145814	<p>I am writing regarding the pollution discharge permit for U.S. Steel Corp.'s Gary Works plant.</p> <p>I am opposed to this proposed permit to allow for more pollution into Lake Michigan (which supplies my drinking water and in which I, and my whole family including 3 year old daughter swim).</p> <p>By giving U.S. Steel a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- we will damage water quality and hurt the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes. Please do not let U.S. Steel's production activities impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline.</p> <p>I am asking that the final water pollution discharge permit require substantial REDUCTIONS in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River. It must also ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan.</p> <p>Thank you, (name omitted)</p>
12/6/07	339150050	<p>I am opposed to the permit given to US Steel to increase pollution into Lake Michigan.</p> <p>I am writing to ask the US EPA and Indiana DNR to enforce the laws we have on the books and require this plant to REDUCE pollution. This will protect far more jobs (which is the reason cited for the increase) -- then what is proposed by US Steel. Without viable water supply and a healthy coastline IN and IL will be harmed.</p>
12/6/07	339151216	<p>NO PERMIT should be issued. It is time to draw the line on the pollution of our natural resources and drinking water. The Oil companies have been recording record profits. They can afford to implement whatever measures are necessary to reach 0 increase in pollution.</p>

12/6/07	339152229	<p>U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes.</p> <p>U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline.</p> <p>The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River.</p> <p>The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan.</p>
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12/6/07	339154735	<p>For the past three decades the Clean Water Act has been in place to ensure that we have safe, clean water for generations to come. Its intent is to reduce and eventually eliminate pollution that enters those valuable water systems. Today one of the most important water resources we have in this country, Lake Michigan within our Great Lakes, is faced with the threat of more pollution from the U.S. Steel Gary Works Discharge Permit.</p> <p>My objections to this permit are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes. 2. U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline. 3. The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River. 4. The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan. <p>Lake Michigan is more than a source of beauty and recreation to the people that live on its shores. And while it is a source of great economic wealth to us, it is also the source of our drinking water-a very basic human need. Please protect Lake Michigan and Great Lakes water as a whole by ensuring that the final permit issued to U.S. Steel Gary Works is one that reduces pollution, not increases it.</p>
12/6/07	339155446	<p>I can't believe I'm reading this. It just goes to show you that big business only cares about the money. Have they even considered the repercussions involved with dumping even more toxins into the largest fresh water supply in the world. Hello we need this water to survive and so does nature. Don't forget that as humans we can't survive without fresh water. We are destroying this planet and it is nobody's fault but ours. What ticks me off is that it would seem that the larger part of our population doesn't care who or what we take down with us. As a race we are selfish. The human race is a design gone wrong and eventually (our kids and theirs) will suffer the wrath of what we have created. We have to STOP killing our planet NOW. These steel companies have no right to Pollute our waters.</p>

12/6/07	339160240	Please have U.S. Steel implement the most stringent standards to prevent any further polluting of Lake Michigan. We need everyone to stop polluting the Great Lakes!
12/6/07	339161717	<p>Concerning the draft water pollution discharge permit for U.S. Steel Corp.'s Gary Works plant - this is an overall BAD IDEAS! The U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes. In addition, the U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline.</p> <p>If there is a final water pollution discharge permit issued, it must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River. This final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan.</p>
12/6/07	339170904	<p>Just say NO. Yes, there may be a transition period for Business to change their ways.</p>
12/6/07	339235850	<p>As residents and responsible citizens of our Great Lakes communities we must be stewards of protection for our great resource.</p> <p>The difference between allowing USS, BP et.al. to increase discharge of pollutants or not has ramifications for all and for several generations to come. Preventing additional discharge, even while increasing production doesn't break laws of physics; the technology is available within these companies. It's a question of deploying that technology vs. a willingness to spend the money to do so. The health of our citizens is directly affected by the health of our resources. It's time for the governments of the people to stand up with courage and assure USS and others never again have the license to assure that health in perpetuity.</p> <p>Thanks you; (name omitted)</p>

12/7/07	340025107	<p>NO PERMIT for US Steel to increase pollution at their plant in INDIANA. Lake Michigan is a resource shared by millions for drinking water, etc., and there should be NO increase in pollution allowed.</p> <p>There should be investment in technology to prevent pollution, with tax incentives for corporations if needed.</p>
12/7/07	340091433	NO PERMIT for US Steel to increase pollution at their plant in INDIANA!
12/7/07	340095217	NO PERMIT for US Steel to increase pollution at their plant in INDIANA
12/7/07	340111732	NO PERMIT for US Steel to increase pollution at their plant in INDIANA!!
12/7/07	340113547	<p>I was born and raised in Michigan. My family still lives there while I reside in Chicago. We are fortunate to have the Great Lakes. I still find it amazing that Lake Michigan is so big, that I can not see across it.</p> <p>ÿLarge bodies of Fresh Water!ÿ Not many places can boast that. We have to do everything we can to keep them clean ÿNOWÿ not 5 years from now when it will be too late. The Great Lakes already struggle with foreign organisms, pollution, low water levels and bottom line every day human neglect! Humans really do not get that it IS OUR PROBLEM! They do not believe that one person can make a difference. One person can because that one person shares with another whom encourages another and another and so forth.</p> <p>What will be the impact if we do not allow these companies to dump in Lake Michigan (calumet river)? Will they go overseas to do business? Will they go to another state that can be bought off like Indiana? Who agrees to the ÿbuy outÿ? Makes me wonder if Michigan has done the same.</p>
12/7/07	340115305	<p>Time for granting exceptions for Big Business to pollute our water and air is now. Action must be taken to stop it. U.S. Steel cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments toward environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline. The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution to Lake Michigan.</p>

12/7/07	340121125	<p>Hi,</p> <p>As a citizen of Chicago, I care a great deal about the health and safety of Lake Michigan. On a national level, it is important to remember that this great lake is one of the largest sources of fresh water for our country.</p> <p>That being said, I think it would be foolish to allow any sort of toxins or waste to knowingly be eliminated into this lake. Also consider the greater ecosystem, the wildlife and local communities dependent on the lake.</p> <p>We, as humans have to take responsibility for our actions, and think of those who cannot speak for themselves.</p> <p>Here are the important points to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes. -U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline. -The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River . -The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan . <p>Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing the positive news and change that will be made. (name omitted)</p>
12/7/07	340124435	<p>U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes.</p> <p>U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline.</p> <p>The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River.</p> <p>The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan.</p>

12/7/07	340130238	<p>As a life-long resident of Lake Michigan, I have seen the degradation of this vital fresh water resource moving at rapid pace over the last 15 years or so.</p> <p>We are life-long residents of the Chicago area, and Washington Island, WI where our fishing industry has been devastated and our ferry in peril of being unable to navigate across to the mainland. In addition we have a terrible problem with cladaphoria (phosphorus from fertilizers and dish washer detergent, but how about phosphates from the manufacturing of and drinking of soda pop which contain phosphates and are not eliminated with sewage filtration)and phragmities which are devastating our lake shore.</p> <p>We need to take immediate action to reverse damage to the Great Lakes, allowing absolutely no additional harmful discharges.</p>
12/7/07	340130232	NO PERMIT
12/7/07	340175811	I was wondering where the information about what you are going to be talking about is. I know you said its about resolving objections, but what objections are there?

12/7/07	341001128	<p>Dear EPA,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes. * U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline. * The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River . * The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan . <p>For Great Lakes restoration to succeed, everyone's help is needed to ensure the enforcement of existing regulations in addition to advocating for improvements that further Great Lakes health.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>
12/8/07	341102333	<p>In the years to come, fresh water will be recognized as the most valuable resource we have. Please have the foresight to protect Lake Michigan - our irreplaceable national treasure - by requiring US Steel and (and other area industries whose permits will be reviewed in the future) to implement the most stringent standards to reduce pollutants discharged into the lake. We - and future generations - are depending on YOU!</p>

12/8/07	341103636	<p>U.S. Steel SHOULD NOT be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes.</p> <p>U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline.</p> <p>The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River .</p> <p>The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan .</p>
12/8/07	341111522	We live next to 20% of all the fresh water in the world. Allowing the pollution of Lake Michigan is fatally short-sighted.
12/8/07	341162836	<p>U S STEEL SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED ANY MORE TIME TO LIMIT HARMFUL DISCHARGES INTO LAKE MICHIGAN.I AM A U S STEEL RETIREE AND HAVE A SUMMER HOME IN MICHIGAN ON LAKE MICHIGAN.I HEARD THRU THE 1960s and 70s of the "Deep Hole" AT GARY WORKS--the repository for all kinds of bad stuff--USS has had years to address this problem and they should not be allowed to continuously ignore the health of our lakes .USS will resolve the issue if forced to do so!</p>
12/8/07	341195628	Please keep our water safe and clean for us and future generations.
12/9/07	342014214	Please hold the U.S Steel Corp., Gary Works to the stringent of environmental standards. I and my family live here, swim here, and would like to continue to do so for some time. Thank you for your consideration.
12/9/07	342055632	<p>Please do everything possible to help protect Lake Michigan and pass the most stringent discharge rules you can compose.</p> <p>In the long run, such action will help the economy and public health as well as the environment.</p>
12/9/07	342093551	<p>It is inconceivable, given what we know today of the consequences of mercury and lead poisoning to our health and the health of our children, that the government would allow polluters like US Steel to continue to dump pollutants into Lake Michigan, one of our most precious life-supporting resources.</p> <p>Please do everything possible to reduce and eliminate this risk to our lives.</p>

12/9/07	342105301	<p>Having read the most recent article in the Chgo Tribune about Lake Michigan polluters, I strongly urge you to stop US Gary Steel Work, and BP from dumping mercury, lead and other pollutants into Lake Michigan, or anywhere else.</p> <p>I can't believe the State of Indiana is so short sighted when it comes to harming our very survival.</p> <p>Even if these companies are meeting EPA guidelines I would recommend that it is time to review the guidelines and realize that we must stop destroying our environment. They need to find another way, and I'm sure that way exists.</p>
12/9/07	342113859	<p>Again short sighted greed with long term consequences. Why is it that BP and US steel are expempt from limits imposed? How is this allowed to continue? Please explain how it is possible to locate the source of the pollution but not address steps to a solution? This list goes on and on. This disgusts me.</p>
12/9/07	342114632	<p>We all depend on and love the Great Lakes and it is criminal to allow present discharges of pollutants such as mercury, amonia and cyanide to continue. We swim in the lake all summer and want it improved not worsened. Hoping for a responsible decision to reduce discharges,</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>

12/9/07	342125458	<p>Mr. Soong, Please ensure that the future of the Great Lakes and its ecosystems are a priority when making a determination on the U.S. Steel Gary Works discharge permit. I believe pollution standards should be more stringent with a goal of reducing the amount of pollutants over time.</p> <p>U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes.</p> <p>U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline.</p> <p>The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River.</p> <p>The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration in this matter. (name omitted)</p>
12/9/07	342193843	<p>It is unbelievable when all evidence points to the fact that LESS pollution is advantageous to EVERY LIFE FORM that REAL consideration would be given to permitting Gary Works to continue dumping poisonous waste at its CURRENT RATE much less ANY increase in polluting the drinking water source for MILLIONS of people. Let us move FORWARD to INCREASE the safety of our water. DO NOT turn the clock back on the environmental progress made in NW Indiana in recent decades. Push FORWARD to ever MORE stringent requirements to ensure a safe water supply for our children and the generations to come!</p>

12/9/07	342204208	<p>According to Greg Burns article, "Getting lead out is a dirty job,"</p> <p>"One recent report attributes a drop in violent crime to the curbing of impulsive behavior associated with lead poisoning. But the drop in lead levels also coincides with new research showing that even a small amount in a child's bloodstream can undermine the ability to think, concentrate, and behave. No question, a lot of lead is bad. But a little is no good either."</p> <p>According to Dr. Helen Binns, a lead expert and professor at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, "THERE IS NO SAFE LEVEL OF LEAD"</p> <p>The news media is full of the outrage of the public about lead in children's toys from China. Why blame China when U.S.Steel, British Petroleum, and Mittal are dumping lead, mercury, and other pollutants into one of the largest and rare fresh body's of drinking water.</p> <p>Fresh water is scarce and needs to be protected. Human beings can survive longer without food than without water. It is vital to our survival and MUST BE PROTECTED!</p>
12/9/07	342205151	<p>US Steel's draft water permit needs to be toughened. The final water permit should not include extensions for the company to fully meet the existing allowances for lead and mercury discharges into Lake Michigan. With 3 large polluters bordering Lake Michigan in Lake County, IN, anything less is putting the long term health of the Lake and the people who rely on it in jeopardy.</p>

12/10/07	343092937	<p>I am an environmentally-conscience and highly concerned citizen in Chicago. Any type of manmade pollution entering Lake Michigan, or any major freshwater lake, is a very serious problem that must be limited at the very least. Amounts of waste should never be allowed to increase; the future consequences will be an irreversible disaster of a "dead" lake that no fish could survive in. More importantly, this lake is our only source of drinking water and recreation.</p> <p>As employees representing the EPA, your #1 priority should always be to extensively limit most serious pollution; you should never allow the polluters or state regulators to ease their pollution restrictions for even a day!</p> <p>In the future, the U.S. and rest of the world will eventually become a toxic, uninhabitable sewer. With gradual over-population and over-development, this is inevitable. The EPA must always do everything possible to curtail our future demise. You must start doing the right actions, by greatly restricting Gary Works toxic output, and then turning your attention to Mittal Steel, BP in Whiting, and all the other major polluters in the U.S.</p> <p>Clean drinking water and fresh air to breath should never be taken for granted under any circumstances. Your responsibility is to always protect our precious natural resources, now and for future generations. By allowing greedy industries to get away with "pollution murder" the demise of our fragile environments will slowly continue.</p> <p>The time is right NOW, to get tough with all polluting industries!</p> <p>Roger A. Ewald - Environmentally-conscience citizen of Chicago</p>
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12/10/07	343094325	<p>I have lived 2 blocks from Chicago's lakefront for 25 years. Five years ago I was diagnosed with asthma at the age of 62.</p> <p>Pollution from steel mills like US Steel and from plants like BP's have caused thousands of cases of asthma like mine. Chicago has one of the highest rates in the nation of child and adult adult asthma. Surely this should be reason enough not to approve these water permits.</p> <p>Lake Michigan is also the drinking water supply for millions of people in many states. Please do not allow these powerful companies to get away with polluting the water of our children and grandchildren. Mercury is one of the longest lived metals.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
12/10/07	343094303	<p>Mr. Soong and Mr. Swenson,</p> <p>Please do what you are charged to do and protect Lake Michigan from pollution to the full extent of the law. Environmental standards are often arguably too lax as it is. Please don't let companies put more pollution than these standards allow into a lake that is a resource for so many people. I drive frequently from Chicago to Michigan and am also dismayed by the discharges into the air as we pass through Indiana - like an industrial nightmare. I reject the notion that industrial pollution does not affect drinking water, recreation or aquatic life. Of course it does!</p>
12/10/07	343095201	<p>Please stop polluting the water. There is never a valid reason to dump in our lake. It is not owned by you or anyone else. It should be here for the future and not polluted for our children. What are you thinking?</p>
12/10/07	343105523	<p>In reference to Indiana permit number IN0000281 for U.S.Steel, I am a Kenosha County Board Supervisor from Wisconsin. My district borders Lake Michigan to the East. I am concerned about the increased level of toxins that U.S. Steel wants to dump into the Lake. This is just 60 miles from our source of drinking water for the county. I am also concerned about the effluence of water that pours back into the lake that is too warm. This can have a severe effect on fish populations. This has detrimental effects on our fishing and tourism economy.</p> <p>Please deny this permit request and make sure company is in compliance with acceptable levels in all areas.</p> <p>I speak for the 6123 people that live in my district</p> <p>Respectfully Jennifer Jackson Kenosha County Board supervisor #20 (Land Use and Legislative committees)</p>

12/10/07	None	<p>Hi, My name is (name omitted) and have been surfing for over 19 plus years and have lived over in north Racine for the past 2 years and currently surf Lake Michigan all year round. I also do a surf report for our area and our surf season witch is all year long until the lake freezes, it can be found at www.surfdalake.com click on the links and check it out its called the NO SALT SURFCAST and is one of the first ever real surf report on this side of the lake with a lot of people checking it out because a lot of us do not live right by the water like I do. The reason I am writing this to you is because I have surfed all up and down this side of the lake and I have surfed Gary Indiana witch is a very fine beach break and picks up a lot of waves from the north because its at the bottom of the lake, I recently meet my Wife now back in Southern California that is where I am from originally and that is where I learned to surf. When I came to the Great Lakes I was really happy to surf clean blue water where back in So Cal with all the surfing I did through the years I got infections that had to be lanced off and ear infections that did not go away very easily. I currently love surfing fresh water and especially Lake Michigan and would not want to see a repeat of a Huntington Beach, I am begging you please do not do this to our awesome lake, there are more surfers and water enthusiast then you think.</p> <p>Sincerely, (name omitted and photos removed)</p>
12/10/07	343124259	<p>U.S. Steel Gary Works is one of the biggest polluters of Lake Michigan. Each day the Clean Water Act is violated as they dump mercury and lead into the water that flows into Lake Michigan. The EPA must demand that this potential health risks stop and not allow U.S. Steel to increase the amount of pollution that is discharged into the water. The water belongs to all of us and one Corporation has no right to pollute and destroy this water supply.</p>

12/10/07	343131854	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I oppose granting a permit to US Steel so they may be allowed to contaminate one of the Midwest's greatest natural resources. It is awful that in the 21st century we are still considering allowing corporations the ability to mass pollute and contaminate our natural resources. Without these natural resources we would not be able to live. I agree with the Alliance for the Great Lakes position that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes. * U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline. * The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River. * The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan. <p>Sincerely,</p>
12/10/07	343135354	<p>Please keep our waters clean as our children, family and friends use Lake Michigan as our own. Lake Michigan is our life...Thanks for your time! (name omitted)</p>
12/10/07	343135849	<p>Please help to disallow US Steel to dump more toxic waste into Lake Michigan. Many of us in Chicago and our families visit this area and enjoy the recreational activities the lake provides us.</p> <p>Thank You</p>
12/10/07	343140319	<p>Reversing progress on pollution entering the lakes with the proposed project is beyond foolhardy, it's absurd. For this company, and the state, to think that it makes economic sense, for a measly 80 jobs, is irrational and flies in the face of water quality improvements made in previous years. I applaud the EPA for protecting the people who depend on and use this precious natural resource.</p>

12/10/07	343140442	<p>As a resident of Chicago and a frequent user of the Great Lakes and their various tributaries, I strongly oppose increased contamination of the region's water. All companies should be encouraged, and required if necessary, to implement available "Green" technologies. At this point in time, we should be working to make industry and our environment cleaner, not making the problem worse.</p> <p>Yours Truly,</p> <p>-(name and contact information omitted)</p>
12/10/07	343140544	<p>Approving the US Steel permit to dump toxic waste into any water system, be it a pond or the Great Lakes, would be very irresponsible in both a social and environmental context. The Great lakes is already suffering from declining water levels and invasive species. To knowingly increase the level of contamination in the lakes for the sake of short term profiteering is disgraceful and criminal.</p> <p>Please protect our natural resources.</p>
12/10/07	343140929	<p>I live in Lake Michigan north of Chicago, and I have a small cottage a block from the lake in Union Pier, Michigan, about a half-hour from the US Steel plant.</p> <p>Someone I recently read said it best: Lake Michigan is our Grand Canyon. Why should we sooner allow any polluter to dump more waste into the lake than we would a company over the rim of the Grand Canyon?</p> <p>That such dumping is even going on now is sad. That we would allow it to be increased is shameful.</p>
12/10/07	343141232	<p>After years of fighting for cleaner Great Lakes water and the surrounding environment, US Steel is again wanting to dump more pollution into Lake Michigan. Not only does this harm the environment but also directly impacts the people who use Lake Michigan for recreation and the recreation dollars brought into MI, IN, IL and WI. As with the BP debacle earlier this year, the EPA needs to step it up and prevent this extra pollution from occurring. There must be other options out there for disposing US Steel's sludge. Stop using the Great Lakes for dumping industrial waste. Wake up before it's too late and the lakes are ruined forever.</p>

12/10/07	343142607	<p>I really do not think they should be allowed to dump any more pollutants into the river or Lake Michigan. The state of Indiana should not be allowed to make pollution decisions that effect the entire region.</p> <p>Please do not allow them to issue an additional discharge permit to US Steel. If anything, they should be required to update their plant in order to reduce toxic effluent to lower levels, and if they wish to expand production still be required to hit these targets.</p> <p>As the owner of a business that is completely dependent upon clean water, I urge you to make the pollution regulation and restrictions ever tighter until polluted waters are a thing of the past.</p> <p>Thank you, cheers, (name omitted)</p>
12/10/07	343143017	<p>Please don't make this decision to allow US Steel to dump waste to only save/create jobs. We can not sacrifice the midwes't greatest natural resource (Lake Michigan) for short term benefits.</p>
12/10/07	343144026	<p>I am a resident of Porter County and have frequented nearly all of the beaches along the lake in Northwest Indiana over the past 30 years. Currently my husband and my stepson surf Lake Michigan and they do so at any location between Whiting and St. Joe in Michigan. Outside of aiding and abetting the insidious greed of a major corporation, I cannot comprehend why IDEM would even consider allowing pollutants to be emitted into a lake that we use as a source for drinking water, swim and surf in and catch and eat fish from. My grandchildren deserve to enjoy this natural resource just as my generation and the generation before. The Big Lake has been abused enough over the years. Please, do not allow U.S. Steel to empty any more pollutants into her.</p>

12/10/07	343144139	<p>Mr. Soong,</p> <p>I was raised in Madison, WI. My family frequently visited Chicago to see Lake Michigan, the Shedd Aquarium and the wonderful museums. My mother was born in the UP and I've been swimming in Superior as long as I can remember. The Great Lakes were a huge part of my upbringing and I know I'm not the only.</p> <p>My father is from Gary, IN. His father put more than 30 years in for US Steel and I can guarantee he'd side against them on this one. The Great Lakes are one of our greatest National Treasures.</p> <p>Please tell US Steel to go fuck themselves. Water is quickly becoming one of our most precious natural resources and dumping of any kind in the Great Lakes is extremely short sighted.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>
12/10/07	343144224	<p>I would like to strongly oppose U.S.Steel's latest ploy to have residents of the Lake Michigan watershed live with the negative externalities they impose on the ecosystem. They are an antiquated industry that is not even competitive in today's market. Furthermore, Indiana legislators have long been negligent in regulating their biggest polluters- often giving them special permits. Indian politics must be brought to bear in this regard.</p>

12/10/07	343144337	<p>Attn: David Soong and Peter Swenson,</p> <p>Sirs,</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed permit by Indiana's Department of Environmental Management allowing dumping into the Calumet River and Lake Michigan by U.S. Steel Corp at its Gary plant.</p> <p>Not only do I get my drinking water from Lake Michigan and enjoy the recreational activities offered by the lake, but I also earn my living from the lake. I work in the recreational sailing industry, and having a clean, healthy lake is vital to the interests of Great Lakes boating. Therefore I cannot stress enough the need to reduce pollutants discharged into the lake and its surrounding waters, and for all companies within the Great Lakes watershed to comply with or exceed the standards of the Clean Water Act.</p> <p>Thank you, (name and contact information omitted)</p>
12/10/07	343153046	<p>I can't make the hearing so I'll just say that I strongly object to the plans of U.S. Steel to add any more pollutants to a lake that is already been dumped in enough. I use the lake through out the year and know both intellectually and tangibly what an amazing resource it is. Just because it's part of the largest fresh water system on the planet doesn't mean we get to screw it up.</p>
12/10/07	343153041	<p>I grew up in the Calumet Region. I lived there from 1952 to 1974. I did not like all of the air and water pollution. In 1974 when I graduated from Notre Dame Law School, I made the decision not to return to my home to practice law because of these pollution problems. Instead, I moved to Elkhart, IN where I enjoy living on the St. Joseph River. As a former Executive Director of Michiana Sierrra Club and as a frequent fisherman on Lake Michigan, I believe the EPA needs to enforce stringent pollution standards on BP Petroleum, US Steel Gary Works and any other polluters of the lake. It appears the EPA needs to do this because the State of Indiana is trying to relax these standards.</p> <p>Lake Michigan is the area's greatest natural resource, as well as a significant source of drinking water. The EPA needs to protect it.</p>

12/10/07	343153843	<p>The water that the steel mills pollute cannot be isolated to their putrified portion of the lake. The pollution effects the whole of Lake Michigan and the entire Great Lakes Basin. Polluters in Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, New York, Minnesota and Canada are held accountable for their actions and have had to update and change their operations to deal with more stringent laws. I find it absurd that the state with the smallest amount of shoreline is responsible for a major portion of the pollution that occurs within Lake Michigan. It is bad enough that our air quality, in Southwest Michigan, is diminished by the steel mills so much so that the Federal Government was in the process of requiring vehicle emission testing to stem the rise of emissions in our area. What the government did not take into account, however, was that none of the pollution was coming from within this region, it was all blowing northwest from Gary, Indiana. The same principle applies to fouling the waters of Lake Michigan. To think that the steel industry should not be responsible for their actions is insulting and unfair. Please keep these lakes as pure as can be, for it may be a last resort for fresh water in the future. These Lakes represent 20 percent of all the non-icebound fresh water on the planet, don't let that go to waste. and</p>
12/10/07	343164903	<p>As a future physician in the area I request that the EPA do its best to help prevent the terrible illnesses resulting from heavy metal (mercury) ingestion. Please keep in mind that it could be your child or loved one who is affected.</p>
12/10/07	343170111	<p>We are in a crucial moment in time when we can save the Great Lakes.</p> <p>U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants – including mercury, ammonia and cyanide – that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes.</p> <p>U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline. It used to be possible for people to go swimming in the Calumet River and use it for recreation and enjoyment. It is sad that rivers are now seen as dumping grounds for industrial pollutants.</p> <p>The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River.</p> <p>The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan.</p>

12/10/07	343172053	Hey your company needs to stop with their plans to dump in Lake Michigan I'm a surfer of lake erie and when i heard what was going on i was shocked this is an outrage I will do whatever it takes to stop you I will try to get the surfrider foundation involved cause this should not be happening in this day in age you out to be ashamed of yourselves think about your loved ones who might not be able to enjoy the lakes one day cause of your actions.
12/10/07	343174052	IT IS OUTRAGIOUS THAT IN 2007 WITH ALL THAT IS NOW KNOWN ABOUT LEAD AND MERCURY, IN REGARD TO HEALTH, THAT LAKE MICHIGAN,S WATERS ARE ALLOWED TO BE POLLUTED BY THESE CHEMICALS!!
12/10/07	343175640	This is a comment on the proposed new water permit for U.S. Steel's Gary Works. I cannot make the public meeting so would appreciate this being taken as my statement: I forcefully disagree with allowing U.S. Steel more mercury, heavy metal and other liquid or gaseous or solid pollutants deposits in Lake Michigan and its environs. U.S. Steel is not above the law and U.S. citizens in adjoining states are suffering from their unrestrained infliction of pollutants on our beautiful lake. I call on the EPA to require U.S. Steel to comply with the federal guidelines for these emissions/dumpings within two years. Thank you.
12/10/07	343191334	The propsoed five year extension of the water pollution discharge permit issued to U.S. STEELS Gary works plant should not be considered as it will in no way help to make them a more viable player in the world market or in any way help the bottom line. The only result of this action will be the continued poisoning of the current generation and the poisoning and financial burden due to the eventual clean up costs of future generations. Let us strive to be responsible and patriotic in our activities here at home as well as abroad.exposing our own citizenry to our toxic heritage in no way helps to strengthen our country or its people. we are just borrowing this world from our children.
12/10/07	343192101	The lakes are a living, breathing treasure to all of us that live near them. Please, we need to go go in a different direction where conservation is concerned. We have to think about long term effects and what dumping will do to the animals and the drinking water that we depend on. No water, no people. Thank you for reading.

12/10/07	343194416	<p>As a lake surfer this issue affects me directly. As a student at UWM studying environmental geography I have studied all of what pollution can do to not only the direct area but what can happen to surrounding areas all over. I cannot stress enough the importance of protecting our precious natural resource. It would be extremely unjust for this one company to be allowed to pollute the lake that everyone uses. In this day and age, we actually understand the outcomes of the pollution and the scales of the damage that will happen when dumped into the lake. There is no excuse to allow it. Allowing this pollution to happen with what we know it does would be completely irresponsible and unacceptable. Please contact me if there is anything I can do help. Thanks, (name and contact information omitted)</p>
12/10/07	343194854	<p>Ladies and Gentlemen, Please go to googleearth.com or www.terraserver.com type in One N. Broadway Gary, Indiana. You will see lagoons discharging into waters of the state, along with many other areas. In the draft permit it tells of limitations for water discharge. There is NO sediment or soil testing, or no test wells to show the levels of pollution surrounding this facility from the continuous discharging of all the chemicals listed in the permit, and not in the permit that the facility uses or possibly discharges. How much build up have these chemicals caused? Have these chemicals reached the groundwater? Have ALL outfalls into Lake Michigan been tested for each chemical in the sediment(the entire shoreline)? Why is the company warned ahead of time before inspections? Why has this facility NOT been shut down?</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, (name and contact information omitted)</p>

12/10/07	343202935	<p>Without launching into a lengthy letter explaining all the hows, whys, and reasons (which should be obvious to the simplest of minds), I would like to register my opposition to increased (or even sustained) dumping of toxic and illegal materials into Lake Michigan by the Indiana Steel Corporations. I would urge the EPA to take a strong stance against any further degradation of the waters of Lake Michigan which are used by so many as a source of food and drink.</p> <p>It is a wonder, that in this knowledge-filled and data-drenched culture that there is any question as to which way decisions must go when it comes to protecting a resource that is not only vital to life, but is in increasing short supply globally.</p> <p>EPA, please take a strong stance to protect one of the world's largest usable fresh water bodies.</p>
12/10/07	343203746	<p>Please do not allow the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's draft discharge permit for U.S. Steel Corp. U.S. Steel should not dump any more toxins into Lake Michigan; a vital resource that is not divided along state lines. Many communities along Lake Michigan's shores, like my home Kenosha, WI, depend on the economic impact a clean, beautiful lake provides. It is not in anyone's long-term benefit to further pollute this great lake.</p>
12/10/07	343205543	<p>please do not let them discharge more toxins into our great lakes water supply.as a lifelong 33 year water professional working for the erie,pa. water works,and a surfer/windsurfer/kitesurfer MAKE THEM SPEND THE MONEY TO TREAT THEIR EFFULENT till its cleaner than the water they take in.the treatment technology is avaiable make them use it.we need to raise the bar for our grandkids and the future generations.</p>
12/10/07	343210923	<p>Please stop any dumping in Lake Michigan. Please explore alternative methods of disposing of waste. I have grown up in Michigan and dream of some day returning to enjoy fresh water surf! More importantly, the Great Lakes are the greatest most vast of global source of fresh water--we can't afford to contaminate this precious resource! I am having surgery tomorrow so I cannot be present at any meetings or hearings, but please consider this issue means enough that I would take time to plead with you to avoid dumping, although I am quite nervous about surgery tomorrow.</p> <p>Thanks for your earnest consideration.</p>

12/10/07	343212933	Please do not allow this company to dump more toxic waste into Lake Michigan. They should be fined for not complying to limits already in place not rewarded.
12/10/07	343215055	<p>As someone who sometimes vacations near Lake Michigan and swims triathlons in Lake Michigan, the cleaner you require the lake to be, the better. Exceptions should not be made for big business. Given the water crises that are effecting other areas of the nation, we should be doing our best to keep Lake Michigan clean!</p> <p>I also have 2 boys that I would like to be able to play in the lake, safely.</p>
12/10/07	343222330	<p>I belong to an environmental group at Northeastern Illinois University. It is a travesty that US Steel and BP are allowed to pollute Lake Michigan in 2007. They will pollute as long as they can get away with it.</p> <p>Give them 4 years to stop polluting the lake. After that if they still pollute, fine them 25,000 a day. After one week tell them to sent the fine to an Ind. hospital. After the 2nd. wk. they should send the check to a Ill. hospital. The 3rd. week another Ind. hospital and so on. See how long it will take until they find a way to stop polluting.</p> <p>I would say 6 months and they would stop polluting the lake. If thats chump change make it 100,000 or 1,000,000 a day.</p> <p>They have to stop polluting our drinking water.</p>
12/10/07	343232302	<p>Please do NOT allow this! I am a Great Lakes surfer and can attest to the horrible conditions already present in the water. Please do not ADD to the pollution and bad condition of one of humanity's last fresh-water resources. We swim, surf, drink and play in this body of water. I do not want myself or my children suffering from health conditions directly as a result of the EPA's and GrantWorks grossly shortsighted outlook on resources and waste disposal.</p> <p>In this technologically advanced age we live in, couldn't we think of a better idea to dispose of this waste instead of DUMPING INTO A LAKE?!? Come on people, we do not live in the 1800's anymore. Use the vast resources of the government and scientific community and effect a positive change for once.</p> <p>Please do not dump into my playground!</p>

12/10/07	343233651	<p>I object to any leniency toward big polluters like US Steel. They should have to clean up their waste just like any other business. Restrictions are restrictions. Our business would be shut down instantly if we did what they are doing.</p>
12/11/07	344084854	<p>Dear Mr. Soong and Mr. Swenson:</p> <p>While I am utterly sympathetic to retaining our remaining industrial infrastructure that still makes up the backbone of our regional economy, I am utterly opposed to any more harmful release of toxins into our already fragile Great Lakes system.</p> <p>I deeply appreciate your vigilance in maintaining a high standard regarding this issue, and urge you to maintain if not strengthen your grounds regarding your technical objections.</p> <p>The Great Lakes, and Lake Michigan in particular has become more than ever a treasured natural landmark for recreation and, in the southwestern shore of Michigan and Indiana, a major location for tourism and related commerce. Our historical industrial base must work in harmony with these uses, and in turn, protect our precious natural resources.</p> <p>With global warming at hand, our Great Lakes are in enough danger. Let's make sure we are not adding insult to injury.</p> <p>My special thanks to your continued hard work and vigilance. Keep up the good work, and stand firm by your objections to USS's permit.</p>
12/11/07	344090545	<p>Lake Michigan is a beautiful part of the area and I feel that nothing else should be dumped into it. I feel like we just went through this with the BP issue. It is a vicious cycle. Corporations dirty the environment and then all of a sudden people realize that it is bad and then we clean it all up. Then it all begins again. The Wolf Lake area is an example of this. It is finally becoming gorgeous again and the area is losing the foul odor I remember from when I was a child. If US Steel is allowed to dump we will be regretting this decision a few years from now. Find something else to do with this waste.</p>

12/11/07	344102919	<p>I think there should be tighter emissions on the facilities located on the lake front. Why do we have emissions on are car if they allowed to just dump tons of toxic waste into the water and in the air.</p> <p>Whenever I leave the area and come back to Northwest Indiana I can smell the Sulfur dioxide in the air. Indiana should have tighter restrictions on polluters and the limits they are allowed. By giving them new permits with higher limits is just allowing them to be lazier and not actual correct the issue. If the facilities are still turning a decent profit shouldn't they be held liable for there by product?</p> <p>Sincerely, (name omitted)</p>
12/11/07	344105624	<p>Lake Michigan is too important to the health and welfare of all who live in the great lakes area to continue dumping mercury and lead into it. This has to stop now. Gary Works needs to clean up it's act and follow the clean water act now not in five years.</p>
12/11/07	344125648	<p>It is important to all of us in the great lakes region that progress be made in cutting pollution put into the lakes. Please do not allow any increase in what is put into our lakes. I don't want to be added to your mailing list.</p>
12/11/07	344125638	<p>There has to be another solution as to what to do with contaminants from the plant. In this day and age and with our technology the is an unacceptable problem that we are even having.</p>
12/11/07	344141756	<p>Please do not allow US Steel to dump anymore waste into Lake Michigan. This lake is what makes the midwest so special and attractive to others. Please protect it. We are counting on you to make the right decision for all of us.</p> <p>Sincerely, (name and contact information omitted)</p>

12/11/07	344143242	<p>David Soong NPDES Programs Brnch (WN-16J) US EPS Region 5 77 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL 60604-3590</p> <p>Dear Mr. Soong,</p> <p>I have been following the news in regards to the desires of US Steel as well as BP, to request continued toxic dumping into Lake Michigan. My husband and I are very concerned. Our family swims in Lake Michigan during our summer vacations to southwest Michigan. We stongly object to the idea that our lake, the surrounding wildlife and Illinois state residents would be subjected to toxic waste in the name of capitalism.</p> <p>Sincerely, (name omitted)</p>
12/11/07	344145504	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I am sending this because I will unfortunately be unable to attend Tuesday's hearings. As a concerned citizen and avid surfer and sailor on Lake Michigan, I am appalled that we continue to push back the date of making any progress towards protecting our inland seas. The Great Lakes are an absolute wonder and we should be thankful and proud to be so close to them, and to have the opportunities we do to recreate with them. If we do not make a stand now, continued pollution will ruin the lakes and the wildlife that lives within and around them forever. This is a critical juncture and I will do whatever I can to continue to fight for the lakes. We need to act NOW!</p> <p>Sincerely, (name omitted)</p>

12/11/07	344162338	<p>I am writing as a concerned citizen. I realize that hearings like this one can easily turn into an angry lynch mob. I have grown up on the south end of Lake Michigan my entire life and spend countless yearround, that's right, year round hours in the lake. My father's family came to Whiting in the early years of the 19th century in search of a better life and employment. I know that from the stories he tells about the beaches that things have gotten better than years of past. I also know that it is much easier to pay a fine or a kickback to the EPA rather than spend countless dollars on conversions to the industry, however aren't we smarter than that? Let's face it. Nobody knew the repercussions of smoking while pregnant years ago, but we allowed ourselves as a civilization to learn and evolve. If the Environmental Protection Agency truly knows that there are other methods of disposal, then why are any ratios of such devastating toxins allowed in our greatest source of fresh water? Are we really thinking for the future generations or just living in the now? I often visit parts of Lake Michigan north of here in the summer and wonder how nice things used to be or could be again for southenders. For many living in the region, industry has been the life blood and source of employment that built much of what we encounter every day. Common sense tells us that you don't just move in next to a steel mill and expect to change everything, but would it hurt to try.... If dilution is the solution to pollution, then my words are falling on deaf ears. Please accept my statement with an open mind and remind yourselves that there is a way.</p>
12/11/07	344165231	<p>The idea that in 2007, with all efforts to prevent toxic pollution anywhere and being sensitive to global warning, we are still looking actually looking at dumping as a viable solution is inadequate and shameful.</p>

12/11/07	344173646	<p>David Soong and Peter Swenson,</p> <p>Regarding the US Steel Gary Works pollution permit:</p> <p>As you know, a large number of environmental groups, the public, and public officials have objections to the draft permit issued by Indiana's Department of Environmental Management.</p> <p>When finalized, the permit will allow the Gary Works facility -- the largest fully integrated steel mill in the country -- to discharge significant levels of mercury and other pollutants into the Grand Calumet River, a tributary to Lake Michigan.</p> <p>You (the EPA) have identified a number of concerns with this permit proposal.</p> <p>Please help ensure enforcement of with long-standing federal Clean Water Act standards; in addition to advocating for improvements that further Great Lakes health.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Frank Haas</p>
12/11/07	344185132	less pollution
12/11/07	344185812	<p>There is NO reason at all to allow ANY further pollution of the Great Lakes...and Lake Michigan in particular.If you are the Environmental Protection Agency...PLEASE protect our natural resources ! No exceptions.</p> <p>Please note I'm not a citizen of Indiana, but I enjoy being and swimming in Lake Michigan in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan during the summer with my family.</p>
12/11/07	344191217	<p>Keep the lake clean. It is a great resource to have nearby both for recreation and tourism. Stop US Steel from polluting it more. I want to be able to use the lake for years to come as well as bring my kids there to enjoy it the same as I have done. Protect what makes this region great!</p>
12/11/07	344192921	<p>Thank you for this opportunity and for challenging the state. IDEM is passive and not protecting the citizens or the lake as a resource. It is outrageous that these permits are so long overdue. The Federal EPA must step in and offer protection that the state agency is not affording us. The discharge permit is too liberal and affords too much time for US Steel to continue status quo. (name omitted) - Gary property owner</p>

12/11/07	344200134	<p>Are you kidding me. Haven't we learned anything from the past. Dumping anything into the lake is a sin. Money should not decide what happens here. The largest lake entirely within one country. The only one of the Great Lakes wholly within the borders of the United States. One of the largest fresh water lakes on planet earth. Please don't screw up our lake.</p>
12/11/07	344203025	<p>Discharges of any type into Lake Michigan are unacceptable, period. As a recreational user of Lake Michigan and a concerned citizen with children, I am outraged that the EPA would consider allowing any additional discharges from the US Steel Gary Works. Please reconsider your decision and protect ÿOUR ÿ lake.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
12/11/07	344203547	<p>David Soong: Last summer, while vacationing at New Buffalo, MI, I met a vacationer from Chicago, who brought to my attention, and expressed great concern against, the exemptions from current and usual regulations that were recently being allowed to the US Steel Environmental permits. Since that time, I have been very surprised that powers in Indiana can be allowed to negatively impact the residents of other states with shorelines along Lake Michigan. Please exert what influence you have to stop giving US Steel extensions to attain current legal levels of pollution effluent into Lake Michigan and its tributaries. (name omitted) December 11, 2007</p>
12/11/07	344205745	<p>Mr. David Soong: While visiting New Buffalo, MI last summer, a fellow vacationer from Chicago, brought to my attention, and expressed their concern that an environmental permit given by Indiana authorities to US Steel allowed them postpone adhering to current allowed levels of pollution into Lake Michigan and its tributaries. I wish to express my objection to this being allowed and to state my objection that Indiana authorities be allowed to issue permits that negatively affect citizens of other states with shores on Lake Michigan and the other Great Lakes. (name omitted) December 11, 2007</p>

12/11/07	344210621	<p>As a physician and concerned outdoorsman, I believe that US Steel has had ample time to comply with existing environmental regulations. Especially when one considers that the past 7 years have been a time of high corporate profits in the steel industry, using economics to support continued and increasing environmental degradation of the Lake is unjustified. I am old enough to remember Gary Works before environmental regulations were in place and Gary and Northwest Indiana as a whole had a justified reputation as an environmental cesspool. There is no reason to allow backsliding when so much has been achieved. The state of Indiana and its governor should be supporting enhanced environmental regulations since creating a sustainable environment in Northwest Indiana is the only way to achieve long-term economic growth. This proposal by the state EPA reeks of short term economic raid by corporate interests abetted by downstate politicians who have no interest in the long-term health of Northwest Indiana.</p> <p>The EPA should take strong action to prevent the waiver from taking effect.</p>
12/11/07	344222132	<p>This is not the way to go here, the lake is already suffering from pollution. I personally enjoy the lake year round and I would hate to see the situation get worse. I have seen vegetation near the shore, it is not healthy for the lake. Also, the people in Chicago will not be happy to hear their drinking water is being threatened. I think we should be pushing companies to modernize their operations to become cleaner, this is a step in the wrong direction. I will spread the word down here at the University of Illinois in Champaign/ Urbana.</p>

12/11/07	344224427	<p>I have had a tough time even FINDING your objections, but suffice it to say that if they (US Steel)aren't putting 100% potable, room temperature water into the ecosystem, then you aren't objecting enough!</p> <p>If it was some little mom and pop place, I bet they'd be shut down by now. If US Steel can spend billions to dredge the Calumet River, they can spend the money to clean up or care for their waste.</p> <p>Go get 'em!!! (name omitted) Home owner</p>
12/11/07	344231141	<p>Dear EPA</p> <p>Please do not allow US Steel, BP Amoco or any other organization increase the amount of pollution introduced into the Great Lakes. It is critical that all citizens, and the EPA as our representative in environmental concerns, protect our natural wonders so that my children and my children's children can enjoy the lake for years to come.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
12/12/07	345013029	<p>We believe that ALL of us, whether conservative or liberal should care deeply about our great lakes. We do NOT want US Steel dumping toxic wastes into them.</p>
12/12/07	345083623	<p>My husband's Mother and my Mother in Law reside on Lake Michigan and once a year we vacation there and someday hope to reside in her home there. We love swimming and recreating in Lake Michigan and it is the most beautiful spot in world to us. Please do not allow the Steel Plant in Gary to release run-off into the Lake. There has to be a better way than for one business to ruin the future of one of the finest recreational areas in the state. Think of the repercussions to residents and tourism. Think long term and deny their request. Thank you.</p>

12/12/07	345091338	<p>Dear EPA;</p> <p>I am a Great Lakes Surfer and Sailor. My midwest heritage taught me about our Great Lake and it employs me as well as provides months of great time and fun. I would hate for our fun to be discontinued based on contaminates and run-off from our refinery output in Gary, or any other such businesses that dot our shorelines throughout the Great Lakes. I was born in Detroit and know the damage an industry can do on waterways and systems. I witness daily, atrocious acts of pollution and carelessness. We as surfers and watermen depend on our fresh water to survive. The beauty of Gary and the surrounding southend is there, you only have to be around or in the water for a moment to realize this, but what lurks below the surface I have felt. We have a ritual of rinsing out our ears with hydrogen peroxide just to stave off the effects of the water around Gary and close shores. I would like to eliminate any excessive dumping all together, but know business must continue, agree somewhere in the middle..do your part, listen to community and you will know your doing the right thing.</p> <p>Thank You (name omitted)</p>
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12/12/07	345113453	<p>I live in Northwest Indiana and use Lake Michigan for a variety of purposes. US Steel is dragging its feet on compliance with the Clean Water Act to the detriment of the health of both local citizens and the local economy.</p> <p>Northwest Indiana has a deserved stigma about putting short-term economic gain before the health of its residents. Some of this stigma is changing, but allowing US Steel's five-year pass compliance schedule would be a step in the wrong direction. The company should also do more in stopping the pollution of the Grand Cal from cyanide, oil, grease, and thermal pollution.</p> <p>US Steel has the resources to do a better job and would ultimately benefit from doing so. The goal of a fishable, swimable Lake Michigan is something US Steel needs to work vigorously towards for our children and grandchildren. I'm angry about what has happened to this region in the past, and I will try not to stay here to raise a family if this continues.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>
12/12/07	345114805	<p>Dear Mr. Soong and Mr. Swenson:</p> <p>I urge you to press US Steel to comply immediately and completely with the current EPA standards for discharge into Lake Michigan.</p> <p>No leeway, grace period or relaxation of the rules should be permitted.</p> <p>This request to you covers all permits for the discharge of toxic materials, heavy metals, and other related pollution into the lake. Again, please enforce all EPA guidelines without regard to economic distress or other arguments that US Steel may use in their defense.</p> <p>I hope you will act favorably and forcefully to promote the health and welfare of all residents of the Lake Michigan basin.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>

12/12/07	345130645	<p>I live here, pay taxes here and have seen the lakefront decline since the 1960s when the Big industry moved east from Lake Co into Porter Co. The air is brown thanks to the NIPSCO scrubber (a bandaid applied to the air pollution issue), many fish and most seaweed disappeared and the shore line often had a dark grey metallic outline where the waves have deposited steel discharge. A short boat ride up the MI coast will show you how different things could be here in IN, too. We all need this fresh water source. Eminent domain should apply here. Anyone can see how we are all breathing fouled air and drinking toxic water so that a couple of industries can record record profits without cleaning up their acts. We need stricter standards to meet this environmental challenge. And your dept has been entrusted since its inception with that responsibility and power. Do not rely on IDEM. Indianapolis has written off the REGION as their filthy industrial cash cow and IDEM is not managing the environment.</p> <p>When we travel we see clean air. When we are home we want that clean air for all the taxpayers here, too.</p> <p>Increased Pollution Requested + Record Profits = Greedy Disregard for Human Life.</p> <p>Let them open their purses and pay for state of the art technology to produce their products without dumping on us. It is possible, they just have had no incentive or pressure to do so.</p> <p>Respectfully hoping you can help, (name omitted)</p>
12/12/07	345143048	<p>Messrs Soong and Swenson,</p> <p>I applaud your diligence in catching this potentially hazardous dumping in Lake Michigan. As a resident of Chicago, I get my water from the Lake which puts me at direct risk of harm from these toxins. Following the BP fiasco, it is plainly evident that the State of Indiana cares not for its constituents nor for their neighbors that share this natural resource. The only thing protecting us from this desecration is your oversight. We should be striving to LIMIT the amount of industrial waste we produce, not INCREASE it.</p> <p>Thank you for your continued guardianship.</p> <p>Best regards, (name omitted)</p>

12/12/07	345145617	<p data-bbox="594 203 831 233">12 December 2007</p> <p data-bbox="594 275 1114 485">Messrs. David Soong and Peter Swenson EPA Water Division NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J) US EPA Region 5 77 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL 60604-3590</p> <p data-bbox="594 527 1166 556">Re: U. S. Steel Gary Works Public Comment</p> <p data-bbox="594 598 1417 850">All sources of pollution discharge are undersireable. But, why do we continue to hammer industry point sources, and let municipalities and individuals escape under the cover of non-point sources? Your list of top twenty polluters in the Dec. 9 "Chicago Tribune" only showed industry. Where are all the municipalities? Do you mean to tell me Chicago, Gary, Green Bay, Milwaukee, Traverse City, etc. are immune?</p> <p data-bbox="594 892 1406 1144">All sources should reduce polluting discharges. We need to work with those who make a good faith effort to reduce their discharges. The feasibility to reduce should be determined by economics, science, and technology, not by politicians, environmentalists, and malicious media reports. Reduction does not happen overnight, without new technology, and without money.</p> <p data-bbox="594 1186 1417 1648">The EPA should challenge municipalities and individuals that generate pollution, too. The public, environmentalists, and politicians are willing to blame big buiness, but our personal unmitigated consumption is the root cause of all this pollution. For example, don't blame USS and BP for the mercury pollution. The power plants provide most of it, and that's because we insist on air conditioning empty houses for our dogs and other frivolous wastes. If we didn't demand product, business wouldn't produce it. Add to this, the complaints about jobs going overseas, prices going up, etc. We can't have our cake and eat it. Let's put the whole story on the table, get the politics out of this conversation, and let economics, science, technology, and honesty drive the solutions.</p> <p data-bbox="594 1690 784 1753">Thank you, (name omitted)</p>
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12/12/07	345163631	<p>Greetings: I just read the article in the Chicago Tribune and want to add my voice. I fully applaud the Illinois, Indiana and US EPA for their questioning of the protections that US Steel claims they are putting in place...we must protect our world now and this is an excellent action to be taking...we need the strongest limits that the Agencies can put on US Steel now before it is too late.</p> <p>Thank you again for your watchful service to all of us.</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>
12/12/07	345204308	<p>* U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes.</p> <p>* U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline.</p> <p>* The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River.</p> <p>* The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan.</p>
12/12/07	345204451	<p>* U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes.</p> <p>* U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline.</p> <p>* The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River.</p> <p>* The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan.</p>
12/12/07	345204416	
12/12/07	345205046	<p>I am opposed to giving US Steel any more time to reduce pollution. It's time they took some responsibility for the health and welfare of the citizens who rely on the Great Lakes. Its been over 100 years of polluting one of the great treasures of our country. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!!!</p>

12/12/07	345235338	
12/12/07	345235501	<p>As a concerned citizen and more importantly, as a mother of two young children, I beg the EPA to please protect Lake Michigan and the surrounding area from further pollution.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and understanding.</p>
12/13/07	346021620	<p>Phew. I can now sleep better knowing that if the permit is defeated then BP won't be allowed to dump 1584 pounds of ammonia and 4925 pounds of sludge into Lake Michigan each day. Instead, it will only be allowed to continue dumping over 1000 pounds of ammonia and 3500 pounds of sludge into the lake each day.</p> <p>While people debate whether BP is allowed to dump more sludge and ammonia into Lake Michigan, I have a different question: why is it allowed to dump any in the first place?</p> <p>By holding the line, you're hardly heroes. Even so, do the right thing; this is -- or should be -- an easy call. People over money.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>(name omitted) Chicago</p>

12/13/07	346032948	<p>Haven't we all learned a lesson from the public outcry from BP's recent proposal?</p> <p>I urge you and the EPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes. b. U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline. c. The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River. d. The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan. <p>For Great Lakes restoration to succeed, everyone's help is needed to ensure the enforcement of existing regulations in addition to advocating for improvements that further Great Lakes health.</p>
12/13/07	346112056	<p>Many of us enjoy visiting and swimming in Lake Michigan. Please stop pollution to this Midwest treasure. US Steel should not be allowed to dump more waste into our lake. Thank you!</p>
12/13/07	346112856	<p>THIS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED!!!</p>
12/13/07	346123053	<p>12/13/2007</p> <p>NO ONE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DUMP IN LAKE MICHIGAN, OUR DRINKING WATER!!!!!!!!!!</p> <p>AND THAN WE WONDER ABOUT HEALTH ISSUES IN NW IN.</p> <p>BESIDES, NO SMOKING ALLOWED!!!!!!!!!! , BUT WE CAN DUMP??????????????</p>

12/13/07	346123126	<p>12/13/2007</p> <p>NO ONE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DUMP IN LAKE MICHIGAN, OUR DRINKING WATER!!!!!!!</p> <p>AND THAN WE WONDER ABOUT HEALTH ISSUES IN NW IN.</p> <p>BESIDES, NO SMOKING ALLOWED!!!!!!!!!! , BUT WE CAN DUMP??????????????</p>
12/13/07	346131455	<p>Please respect the land. Use green methods to remove toxins from your wastewater at US Steel. I support the Lake Michigan Environmental Coalition. Seriously, protect our water. We are inventive Americans that can find other means to survive without violating our water supply.</p> <p>Bill Mulcahy I live in the Dunes of Michigan City. I swim in the Lake, so don't foul our water.</p>
12/13/07	346135017	<p>We have the obligation as stewards of environment to halt and reverse where possible damage caused by man's presence. For centuries economic development has been used to justify the unimpeded destruction of nature; this is a process that must stop. To use the excuse that refusing to grant this permit would cause economic ruin to Northwest Indiana is short-sighted, and nothing more than the same rhetoric we have continually hear from self-serving greedy interests. The world is not for us to exploit; but must instead be passed on to future generations. A little more pollution here, and a little more there; soon spirals into a never ending cycle. Many of the great industrial companies of the 20th centuries are now gone from the area; but their pollution remains. I call on every party involved to work toward a scenario where cyanide discharges are completely eliminated into the waterways and groundwater of Northwest Indiana. It's time we are strong enough to stand up and demand that further pollution ends here.</p>
12/13/07	346141103	<p>I object to US steel Corp. or any company who poses a health risk to all human beings. Enough is enough. The EPA needs to do their job to enforce and punish any company who puts the lives of human beings at risk.</p>

12/13/07	346142025	<p>1. Lower the cyanide discharges year-round to protect Salmonids living in the Grand Calumet River;</p> <p>2. Demonstrate why US Steel should be allowed to increase discharges of contaminants into Lake Michigan;</p> <p>3. I demand that IDEM develop Total Maximum Daily Loads for pollutants that US Steel is dumping into the Lake.</p> <p>4. Require US Steel to decrease the impact of discharging warmed water into the Grand Calumet River.</p> <p>5. Require US Steel and companies that pollute the lake to pay into a water filtration fund to be used to develop and build ways of removing toxins from the drinking water around the Great Lakes.</p>
12/14/07	347083942	<p>We live in Indiana and frequently go up to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, bringing friends whenever we can. This is a special place to us and to visitors from around the world; there are ecological marvels that exist nowhere else on the planet, and much of them are related to the proximity of Lake Michigan and surrounding water table.</p> <p>Adding more poison to one of the largest freshwater bodies of water on the planet is a really irresponsible, irreversible, and stupid idea, and only someone interested in short-term monetary gain would even suggest it. Please use your powers to further restrict the existing pollution of Lake Michigan's waters.</p>

12/14/07	347085920	<p>Dear Mr. Soong,</p> <p>I live in Indiana and often go up to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, bringing friends whenever I can. This unique area is very special to us as well as to visitors from around the world; there are ecological marvels that exist nowhere else on the planet, and many of them are related to the proximity of Lake Michigan and surrounding water table.</p> <p>Adding more poison to one of the largest freshwater bodies of water on the planet is a really immoral, irresponsible, irreversible, and stupid thing to do! Only greedy people interested in short-term monetary gain would even suggest it. Please use your powers to further restrict the existing pollution of Lake Michigan's waters.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.</p>
12/14/07	347122810	<p>I would hope that any permit issued would follow the strict rules of the Clean Water Act. Profit for corporations should not come at a price of environmental degradation. I believe the quality of our water in the Great Lakes will become even more important of an issue in the future and permits allowing discharge of contaminates that would compromise our health should be denied.</p> <p>thanks, (name omitted)</p>
12/14/07	347123100	<p>I strongly oppose this effort of the White House/ IN officials and US Steel to relax the restrictions on dumping toxic chemicals into Lake Michigan and its tributaries.</p> <p>This is truly a tipping point for the public to preserve and protect our shared resource. As in the BP case, US Steel can find a way to deal with its effluents appropriately - but they won't unless pressured.</p> <p>Please continue your efforts in protecting the the Great Lakes region's most valuable resource.</p>

12/14/07	347124335	I would be completely outraged if U.S. is allowed to pump more cyanide and mercury into the world's largest standing body of fresh water. Not only is this the most backwards, harmful, and ridiculous idea I have ever heard of, but the fact that some people actually agreed to do this is a testament to the fact they are overcome with profit margins and the greed of money. I propose that any dumping of such harmful chemicals be halted immediately.
12/14/07	347140013	US Steel is an arrogant, irresponsible public corporation. It shields itself from public scrutiny with assistance from the state of Indiana. The full brunt of federal law should be brought upon the state of Indiana and US Steel. Why should they be able to skirt around hard-fought and hard-won laws to protect the Great lakes? US Steel is a Pennsylvania corporation; it cares not about the citizens here or the fact that we have to drink water polluted by them. As a resident of Chicago, I demand that US Steel be granted no waiver to federal clean water protection standards. Why in the world does US Steel have to dump their filth into the lake anyway? I don't get it. It needs to end. Sincerely, (name omitted) Chicago, IL
12/14/07	347165921	I strongly oppose U.S. Steel dumping toxic chemicals into our beautiful Lake Michigan. The tourism economy would be significantly effected if visitors knew our Great Lakes were the holding grounds of these toxic chemicals. Who would bring there kids to the beach if they starting gettings sick. I have first hand experience with getting sick in Lake Michigan. As a Great Lakes surfer, I take in a lot of Lake Michigan water, and have spent far too many sick days as a result of this hobby. On more than 3 occasions my husband and I have been sick afte surfing in Lake Michiagn. The same symptoms of food poisoning. And now we are going to allow MORE chemicals to be dumped into our natural resource? Tell US Steele to think through this one without dollar signs in their eyes please.
12/15/07	348105939	It is crazy to allow dumping in Lake Michigan. This is our drinking water, which as we've seen in Georgia this year is a precious resource. How can we tolerate dumping chemicals in it.

12/15/07	348150903	<p>I write to you on behalf of over 800 members of the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society.</p> <p>We are appalled at IDEM's reckless granting of permits for companies like BP and U.S. Steel to increase the pollutants they discharge into Lake Michigan. Please stand firm in opposing IDEM's latest permit to U.S. Steel. Thank you.</p>
12/15/07	348180604	<p>Dear Mr. Soong:</p> <p>It boggles my mind that there even needs to be a debate over this issue. This is pollution going into our water system. This is water that people will give their children. This is water that fish and other aquatic life must survive in. If anything, there should be no dumping allowed at all. The St. Joseph River is not fit for swimming in, or for eating from because of the dumping Uniroyal did. It's sad that along the riverwalks are signs saying to stay away from the water because of its hazardous content. This is just a river. Imagine the detrimental effects that polluting Lake Michigan will have, not only ecologically, but fiscally. Who will want to picninc on a polluted beach? How many businesses that depend on tourist revenue will close? The fact that U.S. Steel is asking to be allowed to continue dumping their toxins into our water screams of callousness and greed. It is less expensive to dump this waste into the Calumet River than it is to process this waste and find alternative disposal solutions. The Dollar is more important to those that call the shots than anything else, and it saddens and disgusts me. This should have never been allowed in the first place.</p> <p>Sincerely, (name omitted)</p>
12/16/07	349101408	<p>Please, any permit issued to USS must meet the following bar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Eliminate the 5-year pass for several pollutants, including mercury --Include substantial reductions in free cyanide, oil, grease, and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River --Reduce storm water runoff to Lake Michigan containing unknown quantities of pollutants

12/16/07	349102458	<p>I am strongly opposed to any pollution, especially in the great lakes which me and my loved ones use for recreation. Any pollution in lake michigan will directly effect me and others who surf and swim in Lake Michigan. I hope that the EPA will make sure that Lake Michigan and all of the U.S. natural resources will be protected from any one poluting them. Not only for me and my friends and family who use Lake Michigan for surfing and swimming. But also for your friends and family and for future generations.</p> <p>I hope that the decisions you make today will protect our natural resources for generations to come.</p> <p>Thanks for your time and effort.</p> <p>Lake Michigan surfer/swimmer</p>
112/16/07	349132943	<p>Lake Michigan is an incredibly precious resource, not only for drinking water, but potentially as a source of food (fish) if we could get it cleaned up. The history of mankind contains too many examples of times when people destroyed a vital resource and suffered the consequences. To people in places where fresh water is scarce, it is stunning that we are dumping *anything* into Lake Michigan. Please, let's do it right this time. Let's stop polluting our lake. Thank you for your attention.</p>
12/16/07	349142818	<p>Dear Mr. Soong,</p> <p>We moved here from Hammond, IN 14 years ago and had always heard that Lake Michigan is a very special lake and that it's water was especially clean. Now we find out how many people are polluting this water.</p> <p>We went to the meeting at IUN last week and were impressed with the speaker's reasonable arguments against approval of the permit as it stands.</p> <p>Our reasons may sound simplistic to you but they sound like common sense to us. Please, please only approve a permit that lowers the pollution and states when and how it will stop altogether! Another good, common sense idea, one we heard at the meeting, is to consider the cumulative industry pollutants in Lake Michigan when setting your standards.</p> <p>Thank you for considering our requests.</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>

12/16/07	349161356	<p>To Senator, Congressman, Vice President, (anyone with a conscience):</p> <p>Shame on anyone who can sit in his office and sign a piece of paper that will allow poison to be discharged into Lake Michigan. So what does he talk about at the dinner table with his wife and children? ÿToday kids, daddy signed a document that will allow cancer causing agents, chemicals and deadly substances to be dumped into the lake! How exciting! Honey, please pass me the bottled water imported from Mecosta County Michigan. Boy, this is good water! Good thing we don't have to drink the crap that comes out of the lake. Did I mention how rich we are! Who wants a new Hummer for Christmas?!ÿ Sarcasm? Maybe...reality...what a shame if it is.</p> <p>Signed, Global citizen for common sense decisions</p>
12/16/07	349180732	<p>I am disturbed about the permits to allow the steel industry to polute lake Michigan. It has taken a half century to clean the lake enough to eat the fish we catch. Please do not allow the distruction of this priceless natural resource for the short term profits of a few rich factory owners.</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>
12/16/07	349181045	<p>Dear Mr Soong,</p> <p>As a resident of the Great Lakes for over 55 years, a professional scientist, a Board member of SurfRider Foundation, and a concerned citizen, I urge you to protect the Great Lakes, and to take steps to prohibit the illegal discharge of pollutants in our waterway.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>
12/16/07	349191234	<p>Are you people mad!?! Lake Michigan is one of the biggest fresh water lakes. And it's the only great lake that is completely in the usa. Without it during drouts we would have less and less water to drink. Im not surprized that a company from Gary IN, would even put that idea in there mind. Gary is a total wast dump though, so it wouldn't make much of a diffrence. If anyone trys anything, they will be hearing from me, and I assure you it wont be a good thing.</p>

12/16/07	349214021	<p>No to US Steel No to BP</p> <p>No more business as usual. They need to relocate their businesses. They need to be responsible for the future.</p>
12/17/07	350070829	<p>I am writing to voice my dismay and anger that there could be any permit given in this day and age that would be less restrictive and permissive of polluters than has been in the past! Toxic waste never goes away and to deposit these chemicals in one of the most beautiful and sacred waters on earth is an abomination. Shame on US Steel and on any that would pass such discharge permission!</p>
12/17/07	350103644	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>This letter is about the new water permit that the EPA is blocking. I think it is an outrage that U.S. Steel wants to dump all these chemicals in our clean water. These chemicals spread into the water that we drink; it also affects the fish we eat, and the air that we breathe. If we don't solve this pollution problem now, it can affect future generations of people, and the problem might get worse. Also, why was the information on the EPA website not updated since 2002 was there private information that the EPA didn't want us to see?</p> <p>They are one of the leading companies in mercury discharges, and they should follow the law. I want this water permit rejected because millions of people drink the water from the Great Lakes everyday. It can affect those people and future generations and cause many health problems for those people.</p> <p>The information on the EPA's website is inaccurate because they haven't updated their information since 2002. They are hiding information about all of the pollution discharges that they have passed. This information should not be kept secret from the public because it affect everyone in the Midwest.</p> <p>This is a major problem that should be fixed immediately. I would like to thank you for your time.</p> <p>Sincerely, (name omitted)</p>

12/18/07	351101726	<p>In a day and age where most individuals already can see the future shortage of freshwater I find it unthinkable for U.S. Steel and especially the United States government to allow any further contamination to the worlds largest body of standing freshwater the Great Lakes. In the not so distant future this resource of the Great Lakes will become one of the most sought after resources of the world. To contaminate it any further would be a major short sight of the U.S. government and cost the taxpayers of the future generation billions to clean up. Thank you for your consideration in this issue of utmost importance.</p> <p>Ben Braymer Vice Chairman Surfrider Chapter Lake Michigan</p>
12/18/07	351102353	<p>I am writing to object to U.S. Steels Gary Works dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and to the EPA's attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on their website. I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped into the lake by U.S. Steel, in violation of the limits set in the mid 1990s.</p> <p>This situation not only affects the current population but will affect future generations who depend on the lake for drinking water and food. Can't U.S. Steel and the other companies find a way to dispose of their wastes without harming the environment? Isn't it better to take action now before it is too late?</p> <p>Thank You (name omitted) Senior, Age 17 Kelly High School, Chicago</p>

12/18/07	351102340	<p>I am writing to object to U.S. Steels Gary Works dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and to the EPS's attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on their website. I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped into the lakes by U.S. Steel, in violation of the limits set in the mid 1990's</p> <p>This situation not only affects the current population but will affect future generations who depend on the lake for drinking water n food. Can't U.S. Steel and the other companies find a way to dispose of their waste without harming the environment? Isn't it better to take action now before it is too late?</p> <p>Thank you (name omitted) Senior at Kelly high school, Chicago IL Age: 17</p>
12/18/07	351102351	<p>I'm writing to object to U.S Steel's Gary works dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metal into Lake Michigan and to the BPA's attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on the website I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped into the lake by U.S Steel. In violation of the limits set in the mid 1990.</p> <p>This situation not only affect me it will affect the current population but will affect the future generation who depend on the lake for drinking water in food. Can U.S Steel in the other company find away to dispose there waste without harm the environment? Isn't it better to take action now before it is too late?</p> <p>Thank You (name omitted) Senior at Kelly Age:17</p>

12/18/07	351102430	<p>I am writing to object to the US Steel's Gary Works dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and to the EPA's attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on its website. I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped into the Lake by US. Steel, in violation of the limits set in the mid 1990s.</p> <p>This situation not only affects the current population but will affect future generation who depend on the lake for drinking water and food. Can't US Steel and the other companies find a way to dispose of their wastes without harming the environment? Isn't it better to take action now before it is too late?</p> <p>Thank You (name omitted) Senior at Thomas Kelly High School, Chicago Illinois Age: 18</p>
12/18/07	351102611	<p>I am writing to object to US steel and Gary Work dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and to the EPA's attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information in its Website. I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped into the lake by US Steel in the violation of the limits set in the mid 1990s.</p> <p>This situation not only affects the current population but will affect future generations to come who depend on Lake Michigan as a source of water and food. Can't US Steel and other companies find a way to dispose of their waste without sacrificing the environment and innocent lives? We need to take action now before the problem gets worse and make real damage to the population.</p> <p>Thank You, (name omitted) Junior at Kelly High School</p>

12/18/07	351102725	<p>I am writing to object to U.S Steels Gary Works dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and to the EPA's attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on their website. I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped into the lake by U.S Steel, in violation of the limits set in the mid 1990s.</p> <p>This situation not only affects the current population but will affect future generations who depend on the lake for drinking water and food. Can't other companies find a way to dispose of their wastes without harming the environment? In my point of view it is going to be hard trying to make lake Michigan a better lake without polluting it because everyone does not care what is happening in lake Michigan people in this community should start taking actions for their beliefs because if they not then who is?</p> <p>Isn't it better to take action now before it is too late? (name omitted) Junior Kelly High School</p>
12/18/07	351102716	<p>I am writing this to object to U.S Steel Gary Works dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and to the EPA's attempts to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on its Web Site. I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped into the lake by U.S Steel, in violation of the limits set in the mid 1990s.</p> <p>This situation not only affects me, it will affect future generations, who all depend on the lake for drinking water and food. Can't U.S Steel and the other companies find away to dispose of their wastes without harming the environment? Isn't it better to take action now before it is too late?</p> <p>Thank you (name omitted) Senior Kelly High School Chicago</p>

12/18/07	351102703	<p>I am writing to object to U. S steel Gary Work dumping toxic chemical and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and to the EPA's attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on their website. I am appalled at the amount of pollutant being dumped into the Lake by U.S. Steel, in violation of the limits set in the mid 1990's.</p> <p>This situation not only affect the current population but will affect future generation who depend on the lake drinking water and food. Can't U.S steel and the other company fine a way to dispose of their waste without harming the environment? Isn't it better to take action now before is too late?</p> <p>Thank You, (name omitted), 16 Junior Kelly High School</p>
12/18/07	351102818	<p>I am writing the letter to the U.S Steel Gary works dumping toxic chemical and heavy Metals into the Lake Michigan and to the EPA's attempt to the deceive the public by not posting accurate and to date information on their website .I am appalled at the amount of pollution being dumped into the lake by U.S.Steel , in violation of the limits set in the mid 1990s.</p> <p>This situation not only affects the current population but will affect future generation who depend on the lake for drinking water and food. can't US steel the other company, find away to dispose of their wastes without harming the environment ?Isn't it better to take action now before it is too late ?</p> <p>Thank you. (name omitted) Junior Kelly High School, Chicago</p>

12/18/07	351102828	<p>I am writing to object to U.S steel Gary works dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and to the EPA's attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information into their website. I am appalled of the amount of pollution being dumped into the lake by U.S Steel, in violation of the limits set in the mid 1990's.</p> <p>The situation not only affects the current population but will affect future generations who depend on the lake for drinking water and food. Can't U.S Steel and the other companies find a way to dispose of their wastes without harming the environment? Isn't it better to take action now before it is too late?</p> <p>Thank you (name omitted) Junior Kelly high school Chicago</p>
12/18/07	351102828	<p>I am writing to object to U.S steel's Gary Work's dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and the EPA's attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on their website. I am appalled at the amount of pollution being dumped into the lake by U.S Steel, in violation of the limits set in the mid 1990s.</p> <p>This situation not only affects the current population but will affect the future generation who depend on the lake for drinking water and food. Can't U.S Steel and the other companies find a way to dispose of their waste without harming the environment? Isn't it better to take action now before it is too late?</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>(name omitted), 17 Junior Kelly High School, Chicago</p>

12/18/07	351102831	<p>I am writing to object to U.S. steels Gary works dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and to the EPA attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on their website. I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped into the lake by U.S. Steel, in violation of the limits set in the mid 1990ys</p> <p>This situation not only affects the current population but will affect future generations who depend on the lake for drinking water and food. Canyt U.S. Steel and the other comp. find a way to dispose of their wastes without harming the environment? Isnýt it better to take action now before it is too late?</p> <p>Thankyou, (name omitted) 17 Kelly High School, Chicago</p>
12/18/07	351102824	<p>I am writing to object to U.S. Steels Gary Works dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and to the EPAys attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on their website. I am appalled at the amount of pollution being dumped into the lake by U.S. Steel, in violation of the limits set in the mid 1990ys.</p> <p>The situation not only affects the current population but will affect future generations who depend on the lake for drinking water and food. Canýt U.S. Steel and the other companies find a way to dispose of their wastes without harming the environment? Isnýt it better to take action now before it is too late?</p> <p>Thank you, (name omitted) Junior Kelly High School Chicago</p>

12/18/07	351102816	<p>I am writing to object to US Steel Gary Works dumping toxic chemical and heavy metals into the Lake Michigan and to the EPA's attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on their Website. I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped into the lake by US Steel, in violation to the limits set in the mid 1990s.</p> <p>This situation not only affects the current population but will affect future generations who depend on the lake for drinking water and food.</p> <p>Can't US Steel and other companies find a way to dispose of their wastes with out harming the environment? Isn't it better to take an action now before it is too late?</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>(name omitted) Junior Kelly High School, Chicago</p>
12/18/07	351102816	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>I am writing this letter to object to US Steel's dumping of toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and to the EPA's attempts to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on its Website. I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped in to Lake Michigan by us steel, in violation of the limits set in the mid 1990s</p> <p>This situation not only affects me, it will affect future generations who depend on the lake for drinking water and food.</p> <p>Can't US Steel and other companies find a way to dispose of their waste with out harming the environment? Isn't it better to take action now before it's too late? Thank you</p> <p>(name omitted) Age 18</p>

12/18/07	351102939	<p>I am writing to object to U.S. Steel Cary Works dumping toxic chemicals and heavy into Lake Michigan and the EPA's attempt to deceive the public by not accurate and up to date information on their website. I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped in to the lake by U.S. Steel, in violation of the limits set in mid 1990.</p> <p>This situation not only affects the current population but will affect future generations who depend on the lake for drinking water and food. Can't U.S. Steel and other of the companies find a way to dispose of their waste without harming the environment? Isn't better to take action now before it's too late?</p> <p>Thank you. (name omitted) Senior at Kelly High School</p>
12/18/07	351103121	<p>I am writing to object to U.S. steels Gary work dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into lake Michigan and to the EPA's attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on their website .I am appalled into the amount of pollutants being dumped into the lake by U.S. steel ,in violation of the limits set in the mid 1990s.</p> <p>This situation not only affects the current population but will affect future generation who depend on the lake for drinking water and food can't U.S steel and other companies find away to dispose of their wastes without harming the environment? Isn't it better to take action now before it is too later ?</p> <p>/</p> <p>Thank you (name omitted) Senior Kelly High School Chicago</p>

12/18/07	351103106	<p>I am writing to object to U.S. Steels Gary Works dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and to the EPA's attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on their website. I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped into the lake by U.S. Steel, in violation of the limits set in the mid 1990's.</p> <p>I do not agree with the way US Steel Gary Works is handling the situation of contaminating the Great Lakes and EPA's attempt to deceive the public. I object to posting 2002 information on website and not 2006. My future and the future of my children's health are at risk along with the supply of clean water. Also, the fish taken from the Great Lakes are becoming contaminated with toxic chemicals and heavy metals and causing those who consume it to become ill. Why has this been an issue for so long? These companies must clean up their act! (Not shutdown) The coal companies must clean up their act too, but right now we're talking about US Steel Gary Works.</p> <p>This situation not only affects the current population but will affect the future generations depending on the lake for drinking water and food. Can't U.S. Steel and the other companies find a way to dispose of their wastes without harming the environment? Isn't it better to take action now before it is too late?</p> <p>Thank you, (name omitted) Senior Kelly High School, Chicago</p>
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12/18/07	351103119	<p>To EPA's Posting</p> <p>I am writing to object to U.S. Steels Gary Works dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan. I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped into the Great Lakes by them. I do not agree to the way that US Steel US Gary Works has been ignoring the limits set in the mid 1990s. I find the fact that the EPA has chosen not to post updated data suspect. Is this an attempt to deceive the public?</p> <p>I am fearful of my future and the future of my children. I feel that the EPA is letting the US Steel do damage to my environment and my resources. I will not stand here and let this happen. We all have to use the resources around us, and respect that others also have access to said resources. Can't the U.S. Steel and other companies find a way to dispose of their waste without harming the environment?</p> <p>I know I am but one, however, every new change starts with a person, and there has to be a change or else there the next generation will suffer the consequences.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>(name omitted) Senior Kelly High School, Chicago</p>
12/18/07	351104750	<p>History has shown that anytime we pollute the environment, we have to pay 10 fold in the future to clean-up the mess. Adding additional pollution to Lake Michigan is absurd and just plain stupid.</p> <p>Please don't allow it.</p>
12/18/07	351123521	<p>I strongly object to any increases in discharges or water uses by us steel or the bp refinery in indiana. I would also like to see thier present discharges be made to at least conform to the present standards,also a federal investigation be conducted into the indiana epa department.</p>

12/18/07	351131051	<p>Dear David Soong,</p> <p>It is important that we do not let U.S. Steel Corp. Gary Works dump in our waters! We already have enough heavy metal and pollution in these waters. Please do not permit this to happen!</p> <p>THank you!</p> <p>(name omitted)r Public School Teacher</p>
12/18/07	351152229	<p>I am against the idea of U.S Gary Steel Works getting another water permit because they are just polluting the water to the point that it is harmful to the people near the waters. It is wrong to pollute the water in such an irresponsible way, especially since the chemicals being dumped are not only harming the fish in the lake but also the people who consume them. It also harms the people further more because they may become sick from coming into contact with the water.</p> <p>U.S Steel needs to learn that the EPA has set a limit on the waste allowed to be dumped into Lake Michigan. They should learn how to keep the waste output within these limits to try and avoid a harmful scenario of people dying from the pollutants in the water. These are the reasons I am against U.S Gary Steel Works getting another a water permit.</p>
12/18/07	351153917	<p>I feel that the waste dumping permit for the steel factories in Indiana is wrong because of the environmental risks involved in dumping high levels of mercury into lakes. Lakes do have living organisms in them. The steel industries are contaminating fish and other animals around the lakes. Also, the fact that the cities around the lakes use water within homes, the mercury is a major risk to society as well. Mercury is heavily poisonous to the human body and that even small traces can harm us. Please do not allow U.S. Steel to be menaces to nature and humankind. I object to the permit.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>(name omitted), 18</p>

12/18/07	351153952	<p>I'm writing about the U.S Steel Gary Lake Michigan Pollution because I'm concerned about the issue. They dropping metals in our lake and in the long run, it will affect all of us, especially our future children. Lake Michigan provides the water we use in an everyday basis. For example, we use that water to drink, cook, take a shower, etc. The metals that they are dropping in Lake Michigan pollute our water and can be really harmful to everyone, especially because we use that water for everyday living. I do not support the permit that they took out to drop metals in our lake. The metals that that they drop in the water may have lead and/or mercury and everyone that is provided by that water can become very sick.</p>
12/18/07	351154019	<p>I am writing to object to U.S Steel's Gary works dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and to the EPA's attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on its Website. I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped into the lake by U.S. Steel in violation of EPA standards. Why do we even have standards if they are allowed to be so easily violated?</p> <p>This situation not only affects the current population but future generations as well. We depend on the lake for drinking water and food. Can't the U.S. Steel find a way to dispose of their wastes without harming the environment and contaminating fish? Wouldn't it be better to take action now, before it is too late?</p> <p>Gary, IN should not be allowed to issue this permit.</p> <p>Thank you. (name omitted) Junior Kelly High School</p>

12/18/07	351154037	<p>I am writing to object to U.S. Steel's Gary Works dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and to The EPA's attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on its Website. I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped into the lake by U.S. Steel in violation of EPA standards. Why do we even have standards if they are allowed to be so easily violated?</p> <p>This situation not only affects the current population but future generations as well. We depend on the lake for drinking water and food. Can't U.S. Steel find a way to dispose of their wastes without harming the environment and contaminating fish? Wouldn't it be better to take action now, before it is too late?</p> <p>Gary, IN should not be allowed to issue this permit.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
12/18/07	351154048	<p>I object to Gray's dumping pollutants in the lake. I think that it is something really bad. Things would be way better if the water everyone drank was clean. Not many people would get sick or even die because of the dirty water and we would all have a better life with good water. I think that if you, the EPA, had let everyone know in a timely manner, then things would have been done sooner. If people want to do something as soon as they knew then things would be different up to this day. Just think what you would do if you were the one getting harmed by that water. What would you do? Please do not allow US Steel to continue violating EPA limits! Reject the permit. The community should have a better life to keep on growing, don't stop yourself from doing the right thing. Isn't their a place to dispose all of the waste without harming the people of our own community? Help you world be a better place.</p> <p>Thank you. Oliva</p>

12/18/07	351154017	<p>It is wrong and unfair for steel mills to dump wastes in to the lakes. The contamination of mercury and lead in the lake causes many effects to people living around the lakes. Their water source is being contaminated by the steel mills. I disapproved of the permit; it is unfair to the public. It may not be a huge concern for everybody now, but it can turn into a disaster later on if nothing is done now. That the cities and all who live in them depend on. This is destroying the lakes. I suggest the company to find a better solution s to where to put the wastes. I have heard of manufacturing companies burying their wastes safely deep in the Earth. Millions of residences around the Lake Michigan depend on lake water. It needs to be fresh and clean. If the waters of the lake are contaminated, living organisms would be affected. Fish are big concern; fish contaminated with mercury is a human health risk. This contamination harms the people and the environment we need everyoneÿs help to fight this and live with fresh water.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>
12/18/07	351154150	<p>I am writing to object to U.S steelÿs Gary works dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and to the EPAÿs attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on itsÿ Website. I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped into the lake by U.S. steel in violation of EPA standards. Why do we even have standards if they are allowed to be so easily violated?</p> <p>This situation not only affects the current population but future generations as well. We depend on the lake for drinking water and food. Canÿt U.S. steel find a way to dispose of their wastes without harming the environment and contaminating fish? Wouldnÿt it be better to take action now, before it is too late?</p> <p>Gary 1N should not be allowed to issues this permit.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>(name omitted)</p> <p>senior,Kelly High School</p>

12/18/07	351154107	<p>I am writing to object to U.S. Steel's Gary Works dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and to the EPA's attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on its Website, I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped into the lake by U.S. Steel in violation of EPA standards. Why do we even have standards if they are allowed to be so easily violated?</p> <p>This situation not only affects the current population but future generations as well. We depend on the lake for drink water and food. Can't US Steel find a way to dispose of their wastes without harming the environment and contaminating fish? Wouldn't it be better to take action now, before it is too late?</p> <p>Gary, IN should not be allowed to issue this permit.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>(name omitted), Age:18 Senior, Kelly High School</p>
12/18/07	351154230	<p>I am writing to object to U.S. steel's Gary Works dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and to the EPA's attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on its Website. I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped into the lake by U.S. Steel in violation of EPA standards. Why do we even have standards if they are allowed to be so easily violated?</p> <p>This situation not only affects the current population but future generations as well. We depend on the lake for drinking water and food. Can't U.S. Steel find a way to dispose of their wastes without harming the environment and contaminating fish? Wouldn't it be better to take action now, before it is too late?</p> <p>Gary, IN should not be allowed to issue this permit.</p> <p>Thank you</p>

12/18/07	351154257	<p>RE: Lake Michigan Pollution</p> <p>This e-mail is regarding the pollutants that are being dumped into Lake Michigan by U.S. Steel and other companies. This is unacceptable and cannot be tolerated. Either U.S. Steel stops what they are doing or there will be serious repercussions. People drink and use this water for everyday needs. We do not want water that is polluted. Water is very important to Chicagoans. U.S. Steel needs to find another way. As a concerned citizen, I am currently buying bottled water instead of drinking out of my own faucet because I am so worried about this issue. They must stop right now.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to write my opinion. It was very hot.</p>
12/18/07	351154426	<p>I am writing to object to U.S. steel's Gary Works dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into Lake Michigan and to the EPA's attempt to deceive the public by not posting accurate and up to date information on its Website. I am appalled at the amount of pollutants being dumped into the lake by U.S. Steel in violation of EPA standards. Why do we even have standards if they are allowed to be so easily violated?</p> <p>This situation not only affects the current population but future generations as well. We depend on the lake for drinking water and food. Can't U.S. Steel find a way to dispose of their wastes without harming the environment and contaminating fish? Wouldn't it be, better to take action now, before it is too late?</p> <p>Gary, IN should not be allowed to issue this permit.</p> <p>Thank you</p>

12/19/07	352105825	<p>The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) concurs in each of the objections raised by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 5, in its letters of October 1, 2007, to Beth L. Tallon, and October 16, 2007, to Bruno Pigott. NWF also objects to the draft permit's stormwater provisions because the stormwater prevention plan is outdated, and does not impose adequate monitoring and reporting requirements. Unless the Indiana Department of Environmental Management modifies the draft permit to eliminate each of the objections, EPA should re-affirm its objections and issue a permit to U.S. Steel that complies with the requirements of the Clean Water Act.</p>
12/19/07	None	<p>I am writing to voice my opposition to allowing US Steel to continue dumping large amounts of toxic waste into Lake Michigan and the Grand Calumet River. It seems clear that without EPA's oversight, IDEM would rubber stamp anything that US Steel wants to do. US Steel has had a long history of permit violations that seldom result in any meaningful consequences.</p> <p>My understanding is that the Clean Water Act requires that no new pollution, and in fact lower levels of pollution, must be attempted. The permit that IDEM gave US Steel is so full of flaws and loopholes that it is basically a green light for business as usual. Please consider the health and quality of life impact this kind of sloppy environmental stewardship has on the millions of people (and wildlife) in the whole four State region by demanding a lowering of mercury, cyanide, chromium oil grease, and warm water releases. Please also demand that IDEM develop Total Maximum Daily Loads for these pollutants. Thank you very much.</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>
12/19/07	352152204	<p>America must insist that USS come into the 21st century. Start investing in American ingenuity and show some innovation. Their goal should be a state-of-the-art facility. This will surely CREATE new jobs! Although it is a costly challenge for USS, it is nothing compared to the cost to future generations if they are allowed to go forward "business as usual". How dare IDEM even consider issuing this permit. Lake Michigan is a NATIONAL resource. We need to stop ignoring the fact that this planet is groaning!</p>

12/19/07	352175622	<p>Please dont allow this type of contamination to happen. I have grown up in central illinois and have been going to college at Marquette, University in Milwaukee, WI. I have fallen in Love with Lake Michigan, regular going to the beach and have picked up surfing about 9 months ago. This is a great resource that many people across the United States dont have close by to them, but regulary vacation along its shores. If you allow this to happen there is no signs of where and when it will all stop until it is to late. This discission not only affects the part of the Lake U.S Steel sits on, but everyone in the midwest and especially those close to the water. I hope you can live with your decision and look back at the end of your life and realise that you did do something to truly help the world and people around you. God bless</p> <p>John Hoffman Mechanical Engineering student(Marquette, WI)</p>
12/20/07	353012336	<p>To whom it may concern, Please do not allow US Steel to add more pollution to our incredibly valuable Lake Michigan. This is one of the more ridiculous ideas I have heard, especially right after the BP fiasco of a few months ago. The message from the general public is clear: NO MORE DUMPING POLLUTANTS INTO LAKE MICHIGAN!</p> <p>Too much of the Great Lakes future is at state. If you haven't already realized, the Great Lakes are already in the midst of a complete ecological breakdown. I, personally have noticed a sharp decline in beach cleanliness, water quality, and protective legislation over the past several years; not to mention a stark increase in populations of invasive species. Adding polutants to these bodies of water will only make matters worse. Also, consider that Lake Michigan and the other Great Lakes provides a huge amount of drinking water to the Great Lakes States. I'm sure not even US Steel personnel would want to drink Lake Michigan water after they willingly put more pollutants into Lake Michigan. With usable drinking water becoming an increasingly valuable commodity around the US and the world, why would you even consider compromising the integrity of the water that you may end up drinking some day? The logic is completely backwards, even when the monetary value is considered. Please do your job as the Environmental Protection Agency and PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT! Do NOT allow US Steel to add more pollutants to our beloved Lake Michigan!</p>

12/20/07	353091403	<p>David and Peter,</p> <p>I am a lake surfer, skimboarder, and general water enthusiast. I love spending time in Lake Michigan, it is one of the truly amazing natural wonders. I am a bit confused by the tentative allowances being made for U.S. Steel of Gary. I am familiar with storm water policies that are in place to limit the toxicity that runs off back into our lakes. So, if there is storm water legislation, why would it stand to reason to allow a company to simply dump directly into Lake Michigan? If U.S. Steel were to take the waste that they intend to dump, and simply threw it on the pavement, or hid it in the woods somewhere, they would surely be fined heavily. Yet, if they simply pump it into the lake, where many people swim, and enjoy, it seems that might be okay. The EPA has always been a very strict and tough organization, and that is something I respect because you are protecting that which cannot protect itself. Please stick to your guns and do not allow further dumping into Lake Michigan. Thank you for your time with this matter.</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>
12/20/07	353101436	<p>We in the Great Lakes Basin have used the lakes as one of our most precious of resources for many past generations. Instead of continuing degrade the lake, we need to put in place more environmentally progressive laws and regulations to preserve what we have for generations to come. It is appalling that people continue to use the lakes as a way to make massive profits while the ecosystem and habitat suffer. On a list of the 10 most polluting industrial plants in the U.S., Indiana currently has 4 on the list, all located in close vacinity to Lake Michigan. When is enough, enough? I can't believe the amount of toxins and chemicals already being dispursed into the lakes. We should be cleaning up the lakes instead of polluting them more. We have to be more responsible and not let this continue. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
12/20/07	353110229	<p>My children enjoy swimming in Lake Michigan. They have already been turned away more than once due to high levels of bacteria in the water. Please do everything in your power to keep our lake as clean as possible.</p>
12/20/07	353175013	<p>Please tread wisely.</p>

12/21/07	354103448	<p>Top 5 Reasons Why The Steel Companies Shoul'n't be Allowed to Dump Waste in the Lakes:</p> <p>1) THEY DON'T OWN LAKE MICHIGAN!!!!!!!!!!</p> <p>2) POLLUTION=CONTAMINATED WATER FOR US AND OUR CHILDREN.</p> <p>3) GREAT LAKES ARE THE LARGEST FRESH WATER SUPPLY IN THE WORLD. LAST TIME I CHECKED WE NEED FRESH WATER TO SURVIVE.</p> <p>4) WE HAVE TO PUT A STOP TO BIG BUSINESS PUSHING US AROUND. WE LIVE ON THESE BEAUTIFUL LAKES TOO, WHICH MEANS WE SHOULD HAVE A SAY IN WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM.</p> <p>5) IF YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE WRONG, IT IS WRONG. WE ALL KNOW WHATS RIGHT IS RIGHT. NO QUESTIONS ASKED.</p>
12/21/07	354104911	<p>I am a homeowner in the area of the US Steel plant and I maintain the strong opinion that any changes in production facilities be associated with corresponding decreases in pollution and toxic emissions. Toxic outputs need to continually be reduced even as production outputs increase. This is simply a fact of modern times and is achievable through the application of technological solutions.</p>
12/21/07	354131109	<p>Stop polluting our drinking water.</p> <p>There is plenty of evidence that the mercury in our environment is causing harms to each one of us. Some of the effects are more subtle than others but it is clear this toxin is causing havoc in our children. Stop all toxins from being carelessly dumped into lake Michigan. Our lives depend on your actions to be intense enough to stop this!</p>
12/21/07	354141600	<p>Please your department has to do EVERY THING it can to stop pollution. If you believe in globel warming which most intelligent people do.The Great Lakes could be our ONLY water of the future.</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>

12/21/07	354162639	Why would anyone allow a company or any individuals to pollute any body of water? I find this incomprehensible. Stop the pollution.
12/21/07	354170150	Using our natural resources as a sewer seems to have become the norm....too bad it is also our drinking water. Seems like shouldn't be rocket science to avoid polluting our water, but in the name of making money, it seems to be okay.
12/21/07	354170714	Please do not allow US Steel to dump more pollution into Lake Michigan.
12/21/07	354180644	Please do not allow any more toxic dumping in to our great lakes!
12/21/07	354203132	<p>I am a concerned citizen presently residing in Beverly Shores, IN.</p> <p>To be brief I will get right to the bottom line. The facts are that water is becoming a disappearing resource throughout our nation.</p> <p>Lake Michigan water is viewed as a potential source for many of the Nation's problem areas. It is the responsibility of IDEM and the EPA to see to it that our environmental resources be managed responsibly. It is totally irresponsible to pollute the water that must then be cleaned for use at escalating costs to the many that do not profit from the CONVENIENCE of dumping WASTE into Lake Michigan. I understand US Steel is under pressure to cut costs in an effort to produce steel at a competitive level in the world market .I understand US Steel employees and suppliers are concerned for the welfare of the company so they can maintain there jobs and business. What I heard at the hearing 12/11 was short sighted fear that these businesses and employees would lose their positions and this was not substantiated by facts. There are alternatives to polluting our lakes and rivers and the creativity and work required must be implemented sooner not later. If not US Steel will be deprived of a long future as will the entire region for irresponsibly handling such a valuable asset.Please DO THE RIGHT THING. STOP the contaminating of WATER and air.</p>
12/21/07	354231434	My family lives, hikes and swims on the shores next to US Steel. Please allow us to do so with no further pollution than we are already being subjected to!

12/22/07	355113921	As a victim of arsenic poisoning from well water, I support the most stringent protections of Lake Michigan's water. We are not fully apprised of the individual and comprehensive effects of a cocktail of toxins and carcinogens. And we better served to do things the right way and err on the side of safety. Human and environmental health can never be sacrificed for a profit margin. And it is inhuman and wrong to suggest that it ever should.
12/22/07	355123745	There should be no permits or regulations that are approved for industry along our great lakes that does not require a DECREASE in pollution.
12/22/07	355130604	<p>Its my understanding that the U.S. EPA was founded with not only the intention to enforce federal environmental laws, but also to use our knowledge of science to further prevent and mitigate pollution any way possible. Well science tells us that the pollutants that U.S. Steel is currently dumping and wishes to continue to dump into the Lake Michigan Basin not only violates the Clean Water Act, but it contaminates and degrades the entire ecosystem. The technology exists to prevent and or treat these pollutants, so why should U.S. Steel not be forced to make use of these techniques and new technology? Unfortunately the state of Indiana lost its morals some time ago and all that remains is a corrupt political shell. That is why it is necessary for the federal EPA to step in now and do the job that the state of Indiana should have done many years ago. The Indiana state EPA is still using 19th century knowledge when they suggest the ydilution is the solutiony. Ple</p> <p>ase let the U.S. EPA do there job and contain this destruction before it becomes anymore severe and hold the state of Indiana and U.S. Steel accountable for their crimes against our environment which humans cannot be separated from.</p> <p>Sincerely, (name omitted) Lake Michigan Basin resident and Great Lakes surfer</p>
12/22/07	355140853	No amount of dumping is acceptable, we all know better. Why is it the EPA doesn't? As with the current events in California concerning emissions, it seems that the EPAs interest sides more the highest bidder than it does with PROTECTING the environment. You guys need to get you're heads together and ask yourselves if you are really doing you're job.

12/22/07	355154237	Progressive environmental movements do not equal a retrogressive economy. We should not allow industry to pollute our greatest resource... period. U.S. Steel has had more than enough time to change their ways. It is now time to make them.
12/22/07	355155943	As an avid user of the Southend of Lake Michigan I would like US Steel's permit application to be denied. I use the lake as often as possible to swim during the summer and surf during the fall, winter and spring. My family also uses the same water to drink and bathe. Please hear all of our voices and deny US Steel the permit....thank you!
12/22/07	355162607	Allowing increased dumping of any pollutant will have a long term negative effect on the local environment that we all share and in the long run a serious negative economic impact. Unless of course you are in the steel business. Please do not allow any further dumping into lake Michigan.
12/22/07	355191512	Please stop the US Steel Corp from dumping and polluting our lake michigan. I have been to the lake when it is closed from all the dumping and junk they are putting in it. The writing is on the wall - you need to do your job to save the lake!@

12/22/07	355214607	<p data-bbox="589 195 1419 268">Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the NDPES permit renewal for U.S. Steel Gary Works.</p> <p data-bbox="589 306 1419 485">I thought I would mention also that I fully support any comments made by the Save the Dunes Council as well as the NRDC. Those folks have spent considerable amount of time extensively researching their positions, and any review of their comments should certainly be given added consideration.</p> <p data-bbox="589 527 1419 852">Overall, I have a sense that this permit is certainly an improvement over the previous , existing permit issued in 1994. However, there are some items in this permit that I believe need some definite improvement, especially when one considers the overall environmental degradation the "Area of Concern" has suffered over many years. Cumulative affects should always be taken into consideration when one looks at all of the discharge points as a whole, especially with regard to discharges being made into the Grand Calumet River.</p> <p data-bbox="589 894 1419 1073">I am especially concerned that the high limits on free cyanide established in the permit will have an impact on salmon as well as other aquatic life. In addition, I am concerned that thermal pollution will impact aquatic resources. US Steel needs to demonstrate that these impacts will not occur.</p> <p data-bbox="589 1115 1419 1503">Of special concern is whether or not there will be any additional discharges allowed into the Grand Calumet River or Lake Michigan. While US Steel has fervently stated that there will be no additional discharges, I'm not sure that IDEM's response to that question to date has provided any assurances that that is the case. Perhaps semantics are interfering with the ability to provide a definitive answer. I believe the public needs a definitive answer to that question. And, if it is found that additional discharges are indeed going to happen, an antideg demonstration needs to be thoroughly documented by an outside, third party.</p> <p data-bbox="589 1545 1419 1724">Another area of concern is stormwater management. While a lot of attention has been focused on point-source pollution, it is my feeling that the impacts of nonpoint source pollution are not being fully aired. Is there a stormwater management plan that can be provided for public review, and if not, why?</p> <p data-bbox="589 1766 1419 2091">While this next comment does not necessarily impact this permit, I also feel a need to express my frustration about the NPDES permitting process from a public standpoint. This may be one of the most complex NPDES permits in the entire country. Is there an opportunity to develop a communications plan for complex permits, like this, and make sure there are plenty of early opportunities for public education and input? Being a highly technical permit, I believe that the public deserves to have the information provided in the simplest of</p>
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12/22/07	355220250	First BP, now US Steel! What the heck is wrong with this picture?
12/23/07	356090742	<p>I own a business not far from the U.S. Steel plant that caters specifically to water loving people in the Great Lakes region. As surfers, swimmers, and sailors, we are in the water more than anyone. Unfortunately, it is obvious how plants such as U.S. Steel dump major pollution sources into our waters. When you do something as simple as wade out into the water and come back with oil splotches on your feet, it causes one to worry.</p> <p>No one is looking to cut jobs. Actually, with tighter restrictions, the plants would probably need to create new ones.</p> <p>Please keep those who live here and enjoy the water on a year round basis in mind. We are depending on you to make the right decision.</p> <p>Thank you and good luck, (name omitted)</p>
12/23/07	356152226	<p>I support the recommendations suggested by Save the Dunes. Your duty is to protect the environment for the citizens of this nation, not allow pollutants to harm our health.</p> <p>Please do your job to protect our environment and our citizens from further harm.</p>
12/23/07	356234950	I object to adding any additional pollutants in to Lake Michigan. When the natural resource of water is in such high demand and so essential to our health as drinking water and so enjoyable as a recreational source.
12/26/07	359095443	Do your jobs, PROTECT the ENVIRONMENT, be a useful AGENCY.
12/26/07	359115036	As a fisherman, surfer, and citizen who is making efforts to conserve and preserve our natural resources in my personal life, I oppose any lessening of existing environmental standards for Gary, IN US Steel or any other entity. Have we not learned? The end result is citizen's exposure to health hazards and tax dollars spent cleaning up corporate profits.

12/26/07	359131231	Lake Michigan is the only fresh water supply for millions of people. It should be protected from any possibility of contamination, never mind from the actual dumping of cyanide, grease, mercury, etc. into its waters. For whatever savings big businesses might get, what is the human cost for their savings in disease, reproductive disorders (isn't there already a warning for pregnant women to avoid eating fish from Lake Michigan more than 1-2 times a week???)
12/26/07	359194306	What price can one put on clean drinking water? It is essential. Jobs and industry are very important, but only after you have the basic necessities for staying alive. PLEASE PLEASE don't allow the quality of the water of Lake Michigan to be compromised. As we both are aware, there are NO EASY choices here. WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU TO DO WHAT IS MORAL AND RIGHT. Reflect: We can't undo pollution as easily as we can prevent it. THANKS FOR READING THIS!
12/27/07	360085302	Please do nt allow US Steel to pollute our water mroe than it already is!!!
12/27/07	360225029	Lets work together to clean up our lakes, and keep them that way!
12/27/07	360231418	I became a master naturalist recently and give talks to students, adults and who ever will listen about water quality. My marine biology friends tell me there are better ways of filtering the water coming out of bp and the U.S. Steel. They should get on board, many companies are using this technology. Many of the people I talk to were not aware of the situation till I mentioned the facts in my lectures.
12/27/07	361003657	To Whom it may concern, When the warm winds blow in the summer time and my children say... Daddy, can we go to the beach today? If I have to tell them we cannot, and they ask me why. Do I tell them it's because the levels of harmful chemicals are in factor, and the water can harm them and you can not enjoy what the earth has provided because man deams money more important than enjoyment?? Please answer to my children, a written explanation, that they can bring to their classmates in school. (name omitted) Concerned Citizened

12/28/07	361010719	<p>Sir,</p> <p>As a Great Lakes surfer I wish to voice my dismay regarding the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's draft discharge permit for U.S. Steel Corp. Gary Works.</p> <p>This is not, in my opinion, in the interests of the environment or future generations of recreational users of Lake Michigan's waters and surrounding shores.</p> <p>Yours truly, Neville Mannington Valparaiso Indiana.</p>
12/28/07	361100953	<p>The water of Lake Michigan is SO important in so many ways. Please keep its water clean and healthy for aquatic life, sporting activities, drinking water, etc, as well as to maintain the beauty and avoid nasty odors!</p> <p>SAVE OUR LAKE!!</p>
12/28/07	361101346	<p>The water of beautiful Lake Michigan is important in SO many ways. Please keep it clean and safe for aquatic life, drinking water and sporting activities.</p> <p>SAVE OUR LAKE!!</p>
12/28/07	361105259	<p>To the EPA and others of Good Will,</p> <p>My family vacations every year on the shores of Lake Michigan. It is a real jewel that generates high property values (tax base) and tourism dollars. We surf, kayak, beachcomb, fish, sail, and swim in Lake Michigan and other Great Lakes.</p> <p>I support your objections to the U.S. Steel discharge permit and also believe that the restrictions should be put in place as called for by the Clean Water Act. We want healthy water and a healthy fishery on the South End.</p> <p>Thanks in advance for giving this your consideration.</p>
12/28/07	361112250	<p>Polluting the U.S.'s future gold mine is insane from many perspectives, but most of all from an economic one. Instead of cashing in on a cheap wank, why not preserve the lakes for a big cash-in when the rest of this planet's fresh water is floating out to sea or evaporating.</p>

12/28/07	361122703	<p>To Whom it may concern:</p> <p>I just wanted say, I love the Great Lakes. They are a sort of Paradise to me and many others. I come from the coast of Florida, where water, and water activities are a way of life. Surfing, fishing, boating. Every day we wake up and check the waves, or plan a canoe trip for the weekend, or just go for a swim. I have moved to Goshen, for work, and look forward to swimming, surfing, and spending quality time at my closest beach, Michigan City. What Northern Indiana has is a National Treasure in Lake Michigan. Large Sand Dunes, Huge beaches, and usable water. It would be a crying shame if the water along Indiana's coast and other coasts were polluted beyond usable limits. Money will fade, a National Treasure is worth more than any wealth.</p> <p>Thank You. Indiana Resident.</p>
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12/28/07	361131638	<p>The Surfrider Foundation is a grass-roots, non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches for all people, through conservation, activism, research and education. As surfers often spend hours at a time in the water, even in the freshwaters of the Great Lakes, poor water quality is a real threat that concerns all of our members. We would like to thank the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency for accepting comments from the public regarding Indiana's draft wastewater discharge permit for the U.S. Steel's Gary Works facility.</p> <p>Year round, surfers are paddling into waves at beaches adjacent to the Gary plant. We know, however, that the pollutants that are carried to Lake Michigan from stormwater runoff and industrial discharges are not isolated in northwest Indiana, but threaten public health and impair aquatic habitats throughout Lake Michigan and the rest of the Great Lakes region. Millions of people depend on the fresh surface waters of the Great Lakes for drinking water, jobs, and recreational opportunities. As such, we urge both the EPA and Indiana Department of Environmental Management to use the utmost diligence in ensuring that the U.S. Steel's Gary Works facility's NPDES permit minimizes the health and environmental impacts of this facility's discharge into Lake Michigan.</p> <p>The Surfrider Foundation certainly agrees with EPA's objections to the draft wastewater discharge permit. Particularly concerning are the five year compliance schedules for the achievement of limits for several discharged pollutants and the one-year monitoring and three-year compliance schedules to meet current wastewater temperature limits. These extended compliance schedules do not satisfy the Clean Water Act that mandates compliance as soon as possible, especially since it has already taken IDEM several years to issue this new draft permit after U.S. Steel's prior permit expired in 1999.</p> <p>Surfrider also believes that the limits set on many of the pollutants are not stringent enough. IDEM should not allow U.S. Steel to backslide by increasing the permitted discharge levels of zinc, chromium, oil and grease. The Grand Calumet River is already an impaired watershed. Increasing the levels of these industrial pollutants will cause further harm to the water quality and ecosystem health of the Grand Calumet and Lake Michigan. The citizens who live around the shores of Lake Michigan deserve clean water for drinking, swimming, surfing and fishing. The Surfrider Foundation feels very strongly that the increase in pollutant levels in the draft permit should not be allowed and even recommends more stringent limits be set, especially for mercury, free cyanide, thermal pollution, oil and grease. We</p>
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12/28/07	361132335	<p>Dear David, I surf on the great lakes near the BP plant and am strongly against relaxing the restrictions on pollutants from the plant. Thank you so much for your help, and have a very happy New Year.</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>
12/28/07	361134815	<p>People use our Lake to drink, swim, surf, and many things BESIDES supporting antiquated steel production.</p> <p>Please clean up your act and STOP polluting our Lake! I have gotten sick TOO many times from the water quality that I swim and surf in!</p> <p>And do you dare to ignore that millions and millions of people drink this water? Your plant is producing trace elements of poisonous substances that can't be cleaned just from water purification!</p>
12/28/07	361140132	<p>As members of a national recreational boating group, as well as the Sierra Club, my family and I urge you to tighten the Gary Works discharge limits as a means of eliminating pollution to Lake Michigan over time, in keeping with the federal Clean Water Act.</p> <p>We also ask that you eliminate the five-year pass compliance schedule U.S. Steel proposes for mercury and several other pollutants, and to instead include interim requirements and specific pollution discharge limits.</p> <p>The plant should be required to make substantial reductions in its discharges of free cyanide oil, grease, and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River.</p> <p>Thank you for protecting the health of Lake Michigan and surrounding communities.</p>

12/28/07	361153609	<p>We are sailors on the Great Lakes. We are hereby requesting that the EPA eliminate the 5 year pass heretofore granted to U.S. Steel Gary Works. The Great Lakes contain 20% of the earth's fresh water. It will certainly negatively impact our water supply if we continue on our current path of polluting the Great Lakes. We sincerely hope that the EPA will require specific pollution discharge limits over the next 5 years and require substantial reduction of free cyanide oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River.</p> <p>We thank you for any attention you may give to our request.</p>
12/28/07	361155229	<p>The water on the south end of Lake Michigan is already polluted far more than it should be. As an avid surfer and swimming enthusiast who has lived on and with the lake my entire life I have witnessed firsthand the progressive damage that industry has had on the water quality, lake share, and wildlife. I recently have surfed in Gary and noticed a metallic taste in the water and experienced eye irritation after exposure. The states and federal government should be working to reduce waste dumped in the lake, not make exceptions to increase waste. If this waste was dumped within public view there would be a huge public outcry. However, most people are unaware of what's being dumped in our water supply.</p>

12/28/07	None	<p>Greetings-</p> <p>I am concerned that IDEM's draft NPDES permit (IN0000281) does not go far enough to protect the health of the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan. These water bodies have suffered decades of abuse. We can no longer afford to compromise their integrity in the name of the economy or to balance the budget of any corporation.</p> <p>I believe the 5-year compliance schedule proposed for mercury, free cyanide, and other pollutants is unacceptable. There is no justification; tighter standards should already have been enforced. Please require a prompt compliance schedule and ensure interim progress to the greatest extent possible.</p> <p>I also support more protective requirements for free cyanide and mercury. I have lived most of my life in Gary, IN and would like to one day be able to enjoy the Lake and River without worrying about the affects of these pollutants. I am also concerned about stormwater and the thermal impacts of USS discharges, and support stronger limitations of these pollutants.</p> <p>I support USEPA's comments on the draft permit, and further support those comments submitted by Save the Dunes Council and Alliance for the Great Lakes.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p> <p>(name omitted)</p>
12/28/07	361174626	
12/28/07	361175449	<p>regarding the us steel pending permit issuance: how can an agency chartered to protect the environment and our inhabitants grant a permit that clearly only has one valid explanation ÿdilution is the solution to pollutionÿ????????? why and how can your agency let this happen with all the knowledge gained as to the violations that have ocured for years?? please do not allow this to continue, your duty compels you to do what is best for our fragile great lakes waters.....</p>
12/29/07	362014530	<p>Good Lord How can we in this day and age with even consider the allowance of any discharge into our great lakes? Have we not learned anything from history?</p> <p>-----</p>

